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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Secretary 'Abd-al-Majid Interviewed

PM2805160493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
27 May 93 p 6

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Beijing by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Allam] In view of the criticisms aimed against the Arab League, do you not agree with the view that the role of regional organizations, including the Arab League, has declined a great deal under international changes and the existence of a sole dominating superpower?

['Abd-al-Majid] What could be termed protective UN diplomacy under international changes has had its impact on the role and work of regional organizations, which have had a strong boost and adopted resolutions in a spirit of understanding and interaction. That is natural. In contrast, the past period, which witnessed the Cold War policy, restricted the regional organizations' movement, paralyzed their effectiveness, and did not allow them to play the role assigned to them.

With regard to the League, it has no magic wand. As I said, it strengthens when the member states' wills are united; and the opposite is true. This is because it comprises independent, sovereign states whose interests are not necessarily identical.

In addition to being a regional organization, the Arab League is also a pan-Arab organization comprising all the Arab states. Thus the pan-Arab bond was the motive which brought the Arab states together in the League framework. So it has a special character, because it comprises sovereign states and sincerely expresses the wills of these states, which have their own sovereignty, views, and positions. The League is completely willing to play its regional and pan-Arab role in resolving Arab disputes whenever it is asked to do so.

['Allam] You proposed an initiative for Arab reconciliation. Do you feel optimistic about the possibility of achieving it, and will the convening of an Arab summit in present conditions remain unattainable?

['Abd-al-Majid] Let me stress that Arab reconciliation concerns every sincere Arab. Arab reconciliation is a pan-Arab necessity in view of regional and international challenges. As far as I am concerned, Arab interests primarily require Arab consensus on achieving it. I formulated a view which I believe could achieve the foundations of Arab reconciliation. That was in my letters to kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arab states on 22 March on the occasion of the Arab League's 48th anniversary. Then I sent letters to my brothers who are foreign ministers of the Arab states on 12 April. They included ways of remedying the present Arab situation and possible ways of restoring Arab solidarity to its previous status and working to clear the Arab atmosphere. All this is to be done in the framework of the Arab League charter's principles and aims, first and foremost respect for the member states' independence and sovereignty in accordance with the rules followed in this connection, as well as resolving disputes peacefully. Positive responses have been received from a large number of Arab states so far.

As for the convening of an Arab summit now, you know that in order to convene an Arab summit a suitable atmosphere should be secured. I believe that such an atmosphere requires the Arab leaders' unity and wisdom in order to overcome the difficulties facing joint Arab action, most importantly the effects of the Gulf crisis, from which we are still suffering. [passage omitted]

['Allam] You received an Iraqi popular delegation in Cairo recently. Do you not believe that Iraq's assertion that it has closed the Kuwait file and implemented 90 percent of the Security Council resolutions constitutes a move toward easing the severity of the tension and working to end the Iraqi people's suffering?

['Abd-al-Majid] In addition to being a regional organization the Arab League is also a pan-Arab organization. Thus it differs from other international and regional organizations. The League's task is to work to consolidate ties of Arab cooperation and solidarity. Thus we spare no efforts to achieve Arab accord among all and to strengthen ties of cooperation and solidarity among all the Arab states. I am confident that Iraq's announcement of its commitment to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab solidarity charter signed by the Arab kings and presidents in 1965 will contribute to achieving the Arab accord we are seeking, easing the severity of the tension between Iraq and its Arab neighbors, and putting an end to the fraternal Iraqi people's suffering. [passage omitted]

['Allam] Is not there an Arab move toward the possibility of implementing Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the [Palestinian] deportees?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Security Council is the most important organ in the international organization. It is responsible for implementing the resolution and ensuring that it is respected and adhered to fully. By virtue of my past experience and work in the international organization, I believe it is the Security Council's duty to confront Israel with Article 25 of the UN Charter, which stipulates that "UN members undertake to accept Security Council resolutions and implement them in accordance with this charter."

Since Israel is a UN member, it must implement the Security Council resolution in full, otherwise it has to face the dilemma in which it has put itself, defying the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Returns From Beijing

NC3005080093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo early this morning form Beijing after a nine-day visit to the PRC. During his visit, he held talks with senior Chinese officials on ways to strengthen Arab-Chinese ties. He also signed an agreement on establishing an Arab League office in Beijing that will enjoy the same privileges and immunities accorded foreign diplomatic missions.

With the establishment of the Arab League office in Beijing, the League now is represented in the UN Security Council's five permanent member states—the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and the PRC. The League has 15 other offices in various parts of the world.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi on Peace Talks, U.S. Position

NC0106072293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Aswad] Dr. Hanan, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Ashrawi] Welcome to you.

[Al-Aswad] Would you like first to explain the situation in the occupied territories in light of Israel's long and unprecedented closure of the West Bank and Gaza?

['Ashrawi] The closure assumes two dimensions: First, the entire occupied territories are closed and turned into a mass prison. But more seriously, Jerusalem is isolated from the rest of the occupied territories. The isolation of Jerusalem is, in some ways, a collective punishment—an attempt to halt Palestinian contacts and divide the Palestinian territory into three unlinked parts. The closure of Jerusalem is also a blow to Palestinian economic, cultural, medical, and religious life. A more serious dimension, however, is the attempt to remove Jerusalem from the heart of Palestine. Israel seeks to impose a fait accompli, perpetuate the illegitimate annexation of Jerusalem, and create a reality whereby Jerusalem is excluded from the occupied territories. This is a serious and totally unacceptable matter. Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories; it is the heart of the occupied territories, and we can never accept any attempt to impose Jerusalem as part of Israel, not part of the occupied territories. Such an attempt conflicts with the essence, principles, and objectives of the peace process and violates international law and the terms of reference for the peace negotiations.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Ashrawi, let us move to another subject. Mr. Faysal al-Husayni has received a U.S. invitation to hold talks with U.S. Administration officials after the 'Id al-Adha holiday to pave the way for the 10th round of peace negotiations. Will the Palestinians raise specific points or demands during the talks with the Americans?

['Ashrawi] Yes. Faysal al-Husayni and some members of the Palestinian delegation were invited to continue the dialogue with the Americans on a draft declaration of principles. We replied by posing substantive questions related to the peace process, notably the U.S. position within the officially-declared U.S. policy and the terms of reference for the negotiations, including the letter of assurances. We demand that any U.S. role be based on these letters and documents, in which the Americans explained their positions on the main issues. These include the fact that the occupied territories constitute a unified whole; they include positions on Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements; they recognize Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for pace as the terms of reference for the peace process; they include the principle of withdrawal; they address issues related to the authority of the interim Palestinian self-government—which includes legislative powers. There are also the objectives of the process, especially the transfer of power and the end of the occupation. All these are official U.S. positions. We believe that the peace process so far has not been committed to these substantive issues. The Israeli approach conflicts with the terms of reference, and the U.S. position entails some retreat. We, therefore, will try to put the U.S. moves within this framework—which is originally the agreed-upon framework of the political process—and to discuss the disputed substantive issues.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Ashrawi, the United States had offered assurances to the parties to the peace process, including the Palestinians, concerning the terms of reference and the positive continuation of the negotiations. Has a satisfactory part of these assurances been met as far as the Palestinians are concerned?

['Ashrawi] Of course not. We always say that there is a retreat and an attempt to circumvent these assurances and positions. The U.S. intervention did not seek to force Israel to abide by the assurances and terms of reference. On the contrary, the Americans tried to accommodate and support the Israeli position. We are here trying to put things right. Some of the assurances we received, for example, are that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, that the United States does not recognize the annexation of Jerusalem, that it considers the Israeli settlements an obstacle to peace, that the objective of the negotiations is the end of the occupation and the transfer of power—in the full sense—to the Palestinians, and that the legitimate political Palestinian rights will be attained. We believe that all developments

so far are inconsistent with all these assurances, and that Israel is trying to tamper with these principles. Even if we look at issues like human rights, we find that Israel is flagrantly defying human rights and the application of the Geneva Fourth Convention on the occupied territories. We want to place the United States, as a sponsor state, before its responsibilities so that it will do all it can to implement the assurances it gave us.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Ashrawi, the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track in the ninth round entered a stage of real confrontation on substantive issues. According to observers, this has caused more profound differences between the Israeli and Palestinian views. Is there a way for the Palestinian delegation to achieve results if the negotiations resume in the 10th round?

['Ashrawi] It is clear that the negotiations in the ninth round dealt with substantive issues. This has emphasized the basic points of difference, because these issues are the basis of the negotiating process. Procedural issues can easily be considered and the obstacles overcome. The issues or some of the issues that came up for discussion during the ninth round dealt with such substantive issues as geographical unity, the geographical area of jurisdiction, the need to deal with the issue of land as a singular matter, the issue of legislation, and linking the transitional stage with the final stage with a view to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 242. We are of the opinion that if Israel maintains its intransigent position and attempts to impose its views during the negotiations—just as it has being trying to impose a fait accompli in the occupied territories—it would be impossible to bridge the gap between the two sides. Here a neutral and effective U.S. position is needed, not intervening in favor of one party, but intervening in favor of defending the basis of the negotiations and even defending the declared official U.S. position. Therefore, we think that the United States should intervene in the negotiations on substantive issues and not on the procedural and technical ones. The United States has tried to create the impression that there has been some progress, but it has not tried to intervene on substantive issues to achieve a common formula or to propose a formula acceptable to both sides. Without neutral U.S. intervention—defending the basis of the negotiations and committing the parties to it—the gap between the views or positions of the two parties cannot be bridged spontaneously or just by the continuation of the negotiations without any effective intervention.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Ashrawi, Egypt is making diplomatic efforts at more than one level to promote the peace process. Dr. Usamah al- Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has reportedly submitted a proposal for a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles during his recent visit to Washington. How do you assess this move, or how do you assess its effect on the peace process?

['Ashrawi] Of course, we think that any positive intervention is in the interest of the peace process and in the interest of defending the basis of the negotiations and the Palestinian interests. There has been continuous Palestinian-Egyptian coordination and serious Egyptian efforts to provide positive assistance or services to solve the crises facing the negotiating process.

[Al-Aswad] Finally, Dr. 'Ashrawi, a meeting of the cordon states foreign ministers will be held in Amman, during which the Arab position on the peace process and the possibility of its continuation will be decided. What do the Palestinians hope to achieve during this meeting?

['Ashrawi] As usual, the position on the next round or the political process will be decided at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting. But what we hope from this meeting is primarily a unified Arab position supportive of the Palestinian position and the Palestinian issue. We need this Arab support to back the Palestinian negotiating position and rights not only in words, but through political efforts and other types of assistance, because Israel tries to exploit the lack of parity in the balance of powers. We also need a responsible position and a responsible appreciation of the entire process. There is need for an Arab position to support the basis of the negotiations, support international law and the international law on human rights and insistence on its implementation in the occupied territories, and to make this issue applicable to all the negotiating tracks. There also is need for pressure on the United States—if other rounds are held—to play a neutral role as an honest broker, and not to intervene in favor of Israel. The Arabs can adopt such positions to serve the Palestinian cause, as it is clear that the Palestinian-Israeli track is more complex than the others. Therefore, there is need for concerted efforts and a unified position to support it and ensure its success.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Ashrawi, at the conclusion of this dialogue, we extend our thanks to you. You are always welcome on the airwaves of the Voice of the Arabs radio.

['Ashrawi] Thank you.

PLO Official al-Hut on Upcoming Visit to Washington

NC3105064593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] PLO Beirut Office Director Shafiq al-Hut, who has received an invitation to visit Washington in the next few days, has said that he will not present a new Palestinian working paper to U.S. officials, but will stick to the paper presented during the ninth round of talks.

He said the Palestinian delegation will carry a PLO and Arab rejection of the U.S. and Israeli proposals regarding the convening of the upcoming round of negotiations, as well as a rejection of the principle of separating Gaza and the West Bank when self- administration is implemented. Al-Hut said the delegation will discuss with the

U.S. Administration the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur and the need for their prompt return.

Al-Husayni Meets With Palestinian Journalists

TA2805153493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 May 93 pp 1, 19

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni called for a candid inter-Palestinian dialogue and discussion of the Palestinian stance vis-a-vis the challenges at hand. He said that Palestinian consultations are being held to prepare for that dialogue.

At a meeting with Palestinian journalists, al-Husayni said that preparations are under way to summon the Central Council. He added that a dialogue should precede the convocation of any session of the National Council in the future.

Appraising the ninth round, al-Husayni said that it was a negotiating round, unlike the previous eight, which were debates between the delegations. He explained that a new language prevailed in the last round, although the Israeli side tried to take back with the left hand what it had given with the right. An example was the Israeli side's agreement on legislation. Progress on this was linked to the Israeli condition that any Palestinian draft legislation first be presented to the Israeli side before being discussed.

Al-Husayni said that the escalation of Israeli repression in and the isolation of the occupied territories, in addition to the siege on Jerusalem, played a major role in wrecking the ninth round, especially as the Israeli delegation tried to use the living conditions in the occupied territories as a bargaining chip over Palestinian negotiating positions.

Al-Husayni declared that improving the quality of life under occupation is not an objective of the negotiations and the Palestinians will not surrender the principles and bases of the negotiating process in return for improving the quality of life. Al-Husayni expected the Israelis to increase pressure against residents in the occupied territories to force the Palestinians to yield on negotiating demands. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni said that a Palestinian delegation will leave for Washington before the upcoming round to discuss the Palestinians' draft declaration of principles with the U.S. Administration. Al-Husayni refused to say whether the Palestinians will carry a modified version of their original document. In response to a journalist's question, he said that the Palestinian commitment to the peace process is firm and that there are no conditions on attending the upcoming round. He indicated that the cosponsors of the peace conference had not yet issued any invitations. Al-Husayni did not rule out the possibility of disagreement over the starting date of the round, although there is no disagreement over the principle of participation.

Preliminary Talks Conditional on U.S. 'Clarifications'

TA2805172793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation has asked the United States for clarifications on the demands they issued during the previous round of talks in Washington as a precondition for their agreement to set a date for preliminary discussions with administration officials. The heads of the Palestinian delegation delivered their reply to the U.S. invitation for preliminary talks to the American consul.

Sources in East Jerusalem told our correspondent Moti Amir that in their response, the Palestinians wrote that their delegation is ready in principle to participate in the talks but clarifications are in order.

The delegation heads convened this morning to discuss disagreements over early reports of their intention to participate in the preliminary discussions even before they had issued their official response to the United States.

Delegate on Clarifications

TA2805180293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 93

[Interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Yoni Ben-Menahem on 28 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, a U.S. invitation has been extended for a preliminary round in Washington prior to the 10th round of talks. Will you attend this round?

[Abu-Zayyad] First of all, the invitation is for a limited number of delegation members to discuss with U.S. officials the agenda proposed by the United States, with the understanding that this agenda will not be the final one but a step toward reaching a final declaration of principles. The aim of the invitation is to consult on those principles. As far as we Palestinians are concerned, there are many unclear pending issues and unfulfilled promises about which, we believe, there is an urgent need to query the U.S. Administration. Therefore, we intend to deliver a letter to the U.S. side asking for clarifications of a number of issues. We shall decide on the next step in light of the U.S. reply.

[Ben-Menahem] That means there is still no final decision regarding participation in this advance round?

[Abu-Zayyad] I believe that it is premature to talk about participation in the upcoming round or in the preliminary consultations, especially since the time is also inopportune. We are on the threshold of 'Id al-Adha, and I do not think that it will be possible to comply with this

invitation without obtaining answers and clarifications on issues about which we will ask.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, you returned from Washington. What were you doing there?

[Abu-Zayyad] I participated with the Palestinian delegation, for the first time, in the multilateral talks on arms control and regional security. This is the first time that Palestine has taken part in these talks, because at the beginning Israel rejected Palestinian participation under the pretext that arms control and regional security are the concern of states and the Palestinians are not a state. At any rate, now the Palestinians have been accepted as major participants in these talks.

[Ben-Menahem] As far as the Palestinians are concerned, what is the significance of this committee?

[Abu-Zayyad] I believe that all multilateral talks are academic seminars that initially have no value, but undoubtedly they will contribute to fostering some kind of understanding among the delegations participating in these talks. However, the multilateral talks will not turn into real talks unless genuine progress is made in the bilaterals. If no progress is achieved in the bilateral talks, the multilateral talks will remain academic debates and discussions of academic papers.

[Ben-Menahem] The Palestinian opposition is calling for a comprehensive national dialogue. What is your stance on this idea?

[Abu-Zayyad] National dialogue exists and has not stopped. I do not believe that there has been a rift between the national parties, but the intensification and expansion of this dialogue will undoubtedly contribute to eliminating some of the present misunderstandings and create a firmer, more solid basis for strong, joint Palestinian action.

U.S. 'Written Statement' on Position Sought

NC2905103393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0736 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahman has said the foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the peace process will meet in 'Amman on 6 June to look into the possibility of arranging a meeting of the foreign ministers, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington to discuss the developments ahead of the 10th round of talks.

'Abd-al-Rahman told MENA that the Palestinian leadership will ask the U.S. Administration to clarify its position on several issues concerning the peace process, primarily the terms of reference underlying the negotiations and the geographical jurisdiction [of the Palestinian interim authority; marji'itat al-muwafadat wa al-wilayah al-jughrafiyah]. The ambassador said the Palestinian leadership does not just want words, but a written statement of the U.S. position.

'Urayqat Explains Palestinian Positions on Talks

AU2805203993 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 27 May 93 p 18

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Midlle East peace talks, by Henryk M. Broder; place and date not given: "Flirt at the Barbed Wire"]

[Text] [Broder] Professor 'Urayqat, you were in Washington with the Palestinian delegation. Are you very disappointed about the outcome of the ninth round of the peace negotiations?

['Urayqat] The result could have been much better. Unfortunately, the government crisis in Israel had a negative influence on the talks in Washington. In the first week, we held very serious and intensive negotiations. We really tried to formulate a joint "declaration of principles." We discussed many problems. Our position was: Let us not present position papers to each other again. We have already presented enormous amounts of paper, and each side has always just presented its maximum positions. Instead, we should decide what we can agree on and where our opinions differ. But when the government crisis in Jerusalem broke out, the Israelis demanded again that we exchange papers, even though they knew that, at the moment, we cannot do anything else but return to maximum positions. That was where everything went wrong.

[Broder] How was the atmosphere at the negotiations?

['Urayqat] Very open, very frank—businesslike. We had really serious talks.

[Broder] The decisive problem seems to be that the Israelis want an interim settlement, while the Palestinians want to discuss the definite settlement of the conflict now.

['Urayqat] Of course, one must differentiate. Sometimes we negotiate on an interim solution, and, at the same time, we want to discuss the settlement of the conflict. We want to link the first step with the second.

[Broder] Where is the critical difference to the Israeli position?

['Urayqat] The issues are those points that the Israelis do not yet want to discuss at all: the settlements in the occupied territories, the question of security, Jerusalem. The Israelis say that we will talks about these things later. The other differences can be settled.

[Broder] How can this gap be bridged?

['Urayqat] All issues must be put on the negotiating table. Already now, for the transition settlement, not at sometime in the future. How can we ignore, for instance, the question of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories? How can one have two legal systems during the transition period, one for the Palestinians and another for the Israelis? This would be apartheid. The transition settlement is to make life

easier for everyone and not complicate the situation further. If we now agree to the Israeli proposals not to settle this and that and to postpone it to tomorrow, we will only create new problems.

[Broder] What is to happen to the inhabitants of the settlements in the occupied territories?

['Urayqat] We must negotiate about that. The Israelis do not want to talk about this question.

[Broder] How could the question of Jerusalem be settled, in your view?

['Urayqat] If the political will is there, there is no problem that cannot be solved. The Israelis want to set down the results before the negotiations have started. They want to dictate and not negotiate.

[Broder] The Israelis say the same about the Palestinians.

['Urayqat] Well, we can take a look at the minutes of the negotiations. We suggested the work groups, and it was us who wanted a joint declaration of principles.

[Broder] We get the impression that the Israelis have already given up the occupied territories.

['Urayqat] Fine. Then Rabin now must make a historic decision. But he is not yet willing to do that.

[Broder] At least no Israeli politician says any longer: "There is no one there with whom one could talk."

['Urayqat] This was the excuse that the Israelis used to veil their expansionist policy. Now there is someone there with whom they can talk. Why do the Israelis not offer the Palestinian delegation the things that would be necessary for a solution?

[Broder] There are ideas about a Palestinian-Israeli federation.

['Urayqat] It is too early to talk about that. We are now negotiating about an interim settlement and about how the transitional autonomy can be linked with an overall solution. The Israelis want to deal with the first step separately. I told the Israeli delegates: If you want to fly from Tel Aviv to Washington, you must make a stopover in London. In Tel Aviv you get two boarding cards, one from Tel Aviv to London and one from London to Washington. One you use immediately; the other one you put into your pocket for the time being. Your luggage is checked through to Washington immediately. This is how we envisage the peace process: as one trip with two sections.

DFLP Rejects Peace Talks, U.S. 'Pressure' on PLO

JN3005184693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has released a statement in remembrance of DFLP Central Committee members martyrs 'Umar al-Qasim, Khalid Nazzal, and Bahij al-Majdhub.

The memorialization of al-Qasim, Nazzal, and Majdhub, the statement said, is an occasion for us to draw lessons, ponder the challenges facing our people, and tackle the risks to their national rights inherent in the Washington talks. These risks arise primarily because the leadership pulling the strings [in the PLO] is bowing to U.S. pressure. Let the anti-occupation fight escalate, because the one language that occupation understands is the language of force. Only our struggle will drive our enemy from our land, the DFLP statement added.

Let all activists in the field join forces. Let the masses take to the streets on a daily basis. Keep hitting the troops of occupation and settlers. Let us shout loud and clear: No to concessions and no to blockading or starving our people, the statement concluded.

Delegate Says Media Exchanges Threaten Palestinian 'Spirit'

TA2805153093 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 May 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Nabulus, QUDS PRESS—A prominent member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation has criticized the dissemination in the news media of reports on differences between members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Dr. Sami al-Kilani said that "the exchange of differing viewpoints between members of the Palestinian delegation through the news media threatens the spirit of the Palestinian people." Al- Kilani demanded that the Palestinian street be "apprised of the true negotiating situation, removed from extreme optimism or pessimism." He also called for a discussion of the "general guidelines and rules that should govern a definitive Palestinian decision on convening any upcoming round of talks." Furthermore, he called for "avoiding explicit and clear-cut formulas which we might have to abandon later because of political interactions that occur after such decisive positions are declared."

Al-Kilani, who is close to Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, accused Israel and the United States of not fulfilling the pledges made by them before the ninth round. He pointed out that the "intransigent Israeli stance on some of the elements in the joint declaration of principles between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as well as the situation in the occupied territories and the escalation of repression in them," led to the ninth round's failure to produce a declaration of principles. Al-Kilani added that the "U.S. Administration promised to act to end the financial blockade imposed by the Arab Gulf states against Palestinian institutions after the Gulf war; however, it failed to deliver on this promise. This led the Palestinian delegation, on the basis of a decision by the PLO leadership, to suspend participation in the working groups formed during that round and reduce the number

of its members at the negotiating table to three during the third week of the ninth round."

PFLP Claims Responsibility for Hebron Stabbing 28 May

NC2905123693 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Damascus, May 29 (AFP)—A PLO faction opposed to the Middle East peace talks on Saturday claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli in the occupied West Bank.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said here that one of its members had stabbed to death an Israeli as he went to pray at a site in Hebron Friday.

PLO Envoy in Lebanon on Israeli, U.S. Stands on Talks

NC3105132993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] PLO representative in Lebanon Shafiq al-Hut has stressed the need for Washington to adopt a neutral position to help the 10th round of negotiations succeed and to adhere to the pledged principles to make the negotiations succeed and implement UN resolutions.

He noted that Israel somehow evades these principles and that the United States is not committed to making Israel accept them.

In a radio interview, he said there is a gap between the Israeli and Palestinian plans and that when the Americans intervened, they introduced a plan combining the two papers. He added: We noticed a serious retreat in the stand and found Washington's credibility in the ninth round disappointing.

He pointed out that the United States is not in dire need of making the talks yield quick results and stressed that it is content with the region remaining quiet. He said there is a difference between achieving stability and pursuing the efforts to achieve peace and the changes this entails in terms of relations. The issue, al-Hut added, is not whether to participate or refrain from participating in the 10th round, rather it is to achieve certain goals.

PLO Official Criticizes Libyan Pilgrims Jerusalem Visit

JN0106112093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has strongly criticized the Libyan pilgrims visit to Jerusalem. He said: We were stunned and shocked by this visit. He said that President al-Qadhdhafi discussed this issue with the PLO leadership one month ago and that the latter warned him against the perils of normalizing relations with Israel before attaining any progress in the peace talks.

Sulayman al-Najjab concluded by saying that Libya will be deluded if it believes that such a step will improve its relations with the United States.

U.S. Urged To Stop Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

JN2905193993 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 93

["Statement" by an unidentified Palestinian "spokesman"; place and date not given]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership is following with extreme concern the series of bestial attacks being carried out by Israeli forces against Lebanese forces and Palestinian camps, inflicting heavy losses in both lives and property. The attacks have also led to the displacement of thousands of people.

The continuation of these barbaric attacks against our people in the border strip region and [name indistinct] adjacent to [word indistinct] is a serious escalation on the part of the Israeli leadership with the aim of shedding more blood and creating more violence in the region. The attacks also threaten [words indistinct] a peaceful climate in the Middle East that leads to a lasting, just peace in the region based on international legitimacy.

The Palestinian people, who greatly cherish and admire the Lebanese people, ("government), and national resistance, stand alongside this brotherly country and its people in their valiant resistance to these unjust attacks, which are linked to the enemy's ambitions in Lebanon and Palestine and our land and holy places.

What the Zionist army is doing unmasks the ugly face of this criminal enemy. The aggression against Lebanon and the Arab nation comes at a time when the course of political settlement is continuing. The United States should act wisely and assume its responsibilities toward the Rabin government and his criminal gangs.

Algeria

FLN Discusses National Dialogue, Situation

LD2905161893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] This morning the National Liberation Front [FLN] party held a news conference at the party's headquarters building. Bechir Hedibel has more details on this:

[Hedibel] Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary-general of the FLN Central Committee, gave a news conference at the party's headquarters this morning. He dealt with the recent meeting between the FLN and the High State Council, as well as the dialogue which took place between the political parties and the High State Council with a view to examining ways of getting the country out of the daily spiral of violence.

The FLN secretary-general began his news conference by reading a statement. In it he summarized the current situation and the prospects of getting out of the crises which the country is facing. He meant here the continuous sequence of violence which is causing the death of innocent people on a daily basis, making more orphans and widows who have nothing to do with the political game. The statement also pointed to the increased number of detainees and prisoners including the large number of people sentenced to death.

Abdelhamid Mehri stressed that despite all the difficulties, the wide-ranging, comprehensive, and deep national dialogue remains the only way to get the country out of the crisis. However, this dialogue which should be adopted by all political and social forces, has not yet reached a political momentum which is likely to bring us out of the spiral of violence and frustration.

Therefore, according to Abdelhamid Mehri, we must get the country out of the crises it is facing, respect others' opinions, and open the dialogue seriously to all concerned parties. Otherwise, these meetings will remain for meetings for meeting's sake, and Algeria will be the only loser.

Inclusion of FIS in Dialogue Urged

LD3005141093 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 30 May 93

[Excerpt] In Algeria the FLN, the National Liberation Front, believes that the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front, should be involved in the national debate started by the Higher State Council. The FLN's secretary general yesterday declared in a news conference, I quote, that a force that received three million votes in the last elections cannot be forgotten, end of quote. Our correspondent in Algiers Jerome Bastian who has just met with Abdelhamid Mehri, the FLN's secretary general, asked him what he meant by involving the FIS in the national debate, when it is known that this party which is illegal in Algeria has an armed wing which is carrying out a lethal guerrilla war. Here is Abdelhamid Mehri's answer:

[Begin recording] [Mehri] The problem does not present itself in the form of negotiations. I think that we are taking part in a debate which the Higher State Council called for. We are sticking to the Higher State Council's definition—to talk with all the forces that are not using violence and are not calling for violence to be used. There are, by God, many forces in our country, be they official or unofficial, and we feel that it is important that all these forces should be present to find another way out, another peaceful way of emerging from the deadlock.

[Bastian] So you are pushing the Higher State Council a little to invite parties, who do not for the moment want to attend because they to do not feel that the conditions are not there, to take part in the debate, as well as parties who are clearly forbidden. The Higher State Council finds itself in a difficult position.

[Mehri] We are speaking of political and social forces rather than parties, because the term means exactly what it says, and as for the existing legal parties we think that we should work a little on the political front to bring them all to the same table. [end recording]

The FLN, which met the Higher State Council a few days ago also deplores the absence of the Socialist Forces' Front and the Rally for Culture and Democracy from the discussions underway on the transition planned for January 1994.

Still in Algeria, the arrests of Islamists are continuing. We have learned today that 62 people have been placed in custody in recent days. Since the beginning of the searches in the region of Algiers 400 have already been arrested. [passage omitted]

Curfew Extended to 3 More Provinces

LD2905133693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] The Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities informs the citizens that it has been decided to extend the curfew, in force since 5 December 1992, to the provinces of Chlef, Msila, and Djelfa as of Saturday 5 June 1993. The curfew in these provinces, like in the other provinces, will be in force between 2230 and 0500. Movement of people and traffic is forbidden in public places during this time.

The Ministry informs the citizens who need to move during the curfew that it is possible for them to get a pass permit at the security and gendarmerie services. The interior minister indicated that the extension of the curfew was dictated by the concern for the citizens' security and properties.

Security Forces Kill 5 Wanted 'Terrorists'

LD2905132793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpt] A security source said today that five terrorists on the run were killed in an operation carried out by the security forces last night in Hussein Dey district [of Algiers]. [passage omitted]

Security Men Kill 3 Assassins, Capture 1

LD3005204093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 93

[Statement issued by security service in Algiers Province]

[Excerpt] A warning was issued by the inhabitants of the the Our Lady of Africa quarter last Thursday 27 May 1993, at about 2200. The warning said that a suspicious group was present in the quarter. After the warning, the security units immediately proceeded to the place in question. As they were approaching the spot, shots were heard. The shots were coming from a vehicle occupied by four persons.

The intervention of the security men resulted in the death of three of those inside the vehicle. The fourth, who was the driver, managed to escape.

The persons who were shot dead were Hechaichi Mabrouk, known as Mourad; Ben Debka Ahmed; and Brahimi Mohamed Seghir, known as Toufik.

A day after the operation, the fugitive, who is known by the name Belabbas Abdallah, was arrested. His statements confirmed that Ben Debka Ahmed and Brahimi Mohamed Seghir tried to assassinate the journalist Taher Djaout; that an accomplice Ras Leghrab Boubaker is on the run; and that Belabbas Abdallah himself also took part.

In the past, this group committed either together or individually several assassinations, such as that of Sebbaa Toufik, a civil servant in the Interior Ministry; Police Commissioner Aissa Bouguettach Kaddour, together with his wife; two policemen in the African Lady quarter on 17 October 1992;; and Police Officer Hamdi Mohamed together with two policemen in Kobba on 14 February.

Other crimes in which this group had been involved are under investigation. During this operation the security services recovered two pistols. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Czech Foreign Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

NC2805202893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpt] Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec arrived in Cairo tonight on a three-day visit to Egypt. He was received by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. [passage omitted]

Musa Comments on Visit, Aims

LD2805210293 Prague CTK in English 2012 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 28 (CTK)—Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec arrived today for a two-day official visit.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa, who met Zieleniec at the airport, said Egypt attached great importance to the visit, partly because it was the first visit by a Czech minister to an Arab country.

We are convinced that among the post-communist states, the Czech Republic has solid hope for successful economic reform and the creation of a functioning democracy. For this reason we consider the Czech Republic a prospective partner on the economic as well as the political field, Musa said.

The two countries are expected to sign an agreement on the support and protection of investments Saturday.

Economic Agreement Signed

NC2905120393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1041 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Egypt and the Czech Republic today signed an agreement to secure and guarantee mutual investment in both countries. The agreement aims to enhance economic cooperation, provide a healthy climate for investment, and encourage joint projects.

Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian state minister for international cooperation, and Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec signed the agreement.

Egypt wants to encourage investment cooperation with various East European and CIS countries. In recent months, Egypt signed similar agreements with Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Uzbekistan.

Meets With Musa

NC2905153693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that a number of topics concerning bilateral ties and international issues were discussed during this afternoon's session of Egyptian- Czech talks. He said the talks centered on the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the situation in the Balkans and the Middle East.

In a statement after the talks, Musa said they agreed to continue contacts between the two countries, and that a cooperation accord between the Egyptian and Czech Foreign Ministries was signed to promote cooperation and hold consultations in various fields.

The foreign minister added that they agreed to coordinate the two countries' stands at the human rights international conference, due to open 14 June in Vienna.

Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec said he conveyed an invitation from Czech President Vaclav Havel to President Husni Mubarak to visit his country. He added that he conveyed a similar invitation from the Czech prime minister to Dr. 'Atif Sidqi . He noted that visits by the two countries' senior officials contribute to developing friendly ties between them.

He praised the outcome of his current visit to Egypt which was aimed at developing cooperation between the two countries. He said views were exchanged on several world issues and that the means to promote relations between the two countries in trade and development were discussed.

The Czech foreign minister said his country and Egypt hold similar views on numerous world issues.

Answering a question on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said he discussed this issue with Musa and that they also discussed the international (?mechanism) to stop Serbian aggression in Bosnia- Herzegovina. He pointed out that the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem is "a serious problem" threatening the Balkan countries and the entire region's stability.

He said the five Western countries' plan for Bosnia is "a step" toward halting the Serbian aggression that must be followed by other steps. He affirmed the importance of cooperation among all countries involved in the Bosnian situation to stop the Serbian aggression against the Muslims and reach a peaceful settlement to the problem.

The Czech foreign minister emphasized his country's support for the international resolutions and the Vance-Owen plan to bring about peace in Bosnia.

Departs 30 May

NC3005185993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec left Cairo this evening after a three-day visit, during which he held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the situation in the Middle East and topics of mutual interest.

The two officials discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in light of the ongoing efforts to stop the Serbian aggression. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them.

Musa, Western Envoys Discuss Bosnia Situation

NC2805184593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met tonight with the U.S., Russian, British, French, and Spanish ambassadors. Discussion centered on the developments in Bosnia following the failure of the Security Council to adopt a resolution on setting up safe havens for Muslims and sending international observers to the borders.

Following the meeting, Musa said that representatives of the Nonaligned countries and the non-permanent Security Council members will submit to the Council a resolution countering the one submitted by the five Western countries. He added that the Nonaligned and non-permanent member countries have rejected the Western countries' proposal to set up safe havens for Muslims and presented another one that ensures Bosnia's legitimate right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The foreign minister added that his meeting with the five Western ambassadors focused on these countries' proposal. He said that Egypt is not convinced that this proposal would be effective, as there are some points that need clarification.

He said the ambassadors stressed that the objective is to get the Serbs and Croats to withdraw from all territories occupied by force, that this proposal does not cancel the Vance-Owen plan, and that the Serbs will have "no veto" over it. He said that the ambassadors also stressed that the international conference on human rights to be held in Vienna in July will issue a resolution condemning this aggression.

Concluding his statement, Musa said that the five ambassadors promised to present Egypt with all the details on the five countries' proposal. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Comments on National Situation, Shaykh

NC0106110093 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 27 May 93 p 1

[Report by Chief Editor Mursi 'Atallah]

[Text] In his candid dialogue with chief editors and senior writers and thinkers yesterday, President Mubarak spoke about all the issues preoccupying Egyptians. He clarified all the points, leaving no pending questions, and replied to all questions very clearly, elaborately, and in detail.

In his replies, President Mubarak outlined the approach to domestic and foreign issues and presented his vision of future steps regarding the following points:

1. Terrorism is a worldwide rather than an exclusively Egyptian phenomenon. The state in Egypt is doing its utmost to overcome and uproot this phenomenon through security, social, and political measures. There is a call on major writers and thinkers to set up a working team to develop a detailed, scientific study of the various aspects of this phenomenon, particularly those pertaining to the language the media adopts in its religious approach. This team should take into consideration a

full assessment of the situation, without undermining the essence of the democratic climate Egypt enjoys.

2. Egypt started its economic reforms early, after a sound study and accurate calculations, because acting without accurate calculations would have led to destruction similar to that seen in the former Soviet Union. It was this thorough, scientific approach to gradual economic reform that averted grave problems that would have rendered us unable to provide daily bread, God forbid.

3. I do not deny that the burden resulting from the application of the economic reform policy is heavy. But the only other option was to surrender to ruin and famine like others did. From my position of responsibility, I would not have accepted that, because my policy is not based on deferring problems until later, but on the adoption of rudimental and potential solutions. We have to remember that there was a time when we were unable to repay debts or their interest.

4. We have rejected several IMF terms; we only accepted the terms that are within our people's capacity. For example, the IMF wanted us to raise certain prices by 90 percent annually over a three-year period. We strongly rejected this and refused to submit to the IMF pressure. We countered the IMF's pressure through my foreign tours and communications and my personal connections with major state leaders. We should clearly realize that our reform program was the optimal solution to our economic problems. The alternative would have been total collapse.

5. Social justice represents one of the pillars of the government in Egypt, and has never been absent for one moment during the preparation and discussion of the economic reform program. But when we are facing a choice between life and death, there is no alternative but to choose life first and then achieve social justice later.

6. The international situation has become difficult. We in Egypt are committed to a clear strategy, balancing between defending our sovereignty against any intervention and our desire to establish good relations with all the countries of the world. Everything that is being said about deviation from this strategy is an outright lie.

7. All available information about Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman confirms that he has been a U.S. intelligence agent since he was in Peshawar [Pakistan] supporting the U.S. effort to drive the Soviets out of Afghanistan. He receives a regular salary and lives in the United States with a valid visa, contrary to what is being said about him being granted this visa by mistake. The clamor raised now in the United States about him is due to the existence of differences between the U.S. intelligence service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[In a similar report on President Mubarak's remarks to the Egyptian newspaper chief editors, Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 27 May says on page 4: "The president was asked about the story of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. He replied: Let him stay there. He appeared on U.S. television to attack me; indeed, to insult me. That was the first time I saw him. I did not respond. The shaykh has been an agent of the American intelligence agency [jihaz al- mukhabarat al-amriki] since the days of Afghanistan. He went to Peshawar and spoke about jihad. He receives a regular salary. The visa he received was not issued by mistake; he got it because he rendered certain services. There are differences between the American intelligence [al-mukhabarat al-amirikiyah] and the internal security agency [jihaz al-amn al-dakhili]. They are discussing his expulsion. If he admitted before the court that he rendered services to the United States, they would allow him to stay. This is his story."]

8. Egypt agreed to extradite Mahmud Abu-Halimah to the United States after he arrived in Egypt from Jeddah with a German passport. He was extradited first at his own request and then following a legal study conducted by a committee of senior international law experts and professors. The study showed that while Abu-Halimah is of Egyptian origin, he carries two nationalities: one German and the other American, and what matters is the time he lived in any one country. He is considered American because he lived longer in the United States, and therefore the committee recommended that his request to be extradited be accepted.

9. Egypt has strongly objected to Bush and Schwartzkof's desire during the Kuwait liberation operation to reach Baghdad and arrest Saddam Husayn and topple his regime. This is because Egypt is a country of principles. Egypt supported the Kuwait liberation operation on the basis of these principles, and on the basis of these principles it rejects the use of force to topple the head of a state and change the regime inside it, because this constitutes an insult to the international community and may create a serious international precedence of which we would not approve, despite the fact that the Iraqi regime has been hostile toward us.

10. By virtue of its international relations, Egypt is playing an active role in the peace negotiations because there is no solution to the Middle East problem except through dialogue.

11. We have begun developing the slums in Cairo and 10 other governorates, despite our limited resources. But I will not stop searching for sources to finance this work from outside the state budget so the projects provided for in the development plan will not be affected.

Editor Denies Mubarak's Remarks on Cleric

NC2905175093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper's Editor in Chief Mahfuz al-Ansari has denied a report in the paper's Thursday [27 May] edition that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman works for U.S. intelligence.

Al-Ansari explained that there was a mix up in the paper's report between the remarks made by President Mubarak and the writers and intellectuals during the president's meeting with them last Wednesday, and their analyses of the link between U.S. intelligence and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman and the validity of the shaykhs's visa to enter the United States.

These remarks were erroneously attributed to President Mubarak. Actually they were made by the writers and intellectuals who in turn were citing U.S. newspapers and media and asking the president about the true Egyptian-U.S. relations.

In an article to be published by AL-JUMHURIYAH in the Sunday edition [30 May], al-Ansari said President Mubarak affirmed in the meeting the strength and firmness of Egyptian-U.S. relations on various levels. In this respect, al-Ansari added, the president referred to his recent meeting with President Clinton and his administration officials and praised its outcome.

BBC Report on Asyut Demonstrations Denied

NC3105073593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Asyut, 31 May (MENA)—Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id has denied a BBC report this morning about demonstrations by Islamic groups in the city of Asyut. He said the report is untrue in part and parcel.

In a statement this morning, the governor said that 'Id al-Adha prayers were held in 15 open-air arenas in addition to town and village mosques. He affirmed that no demonstrations were held before or after the prayers.

The governor and popular, executive, and political leaders performed 'Id prayers at Nasir Mosque in the city center in a peaceful atmosphere.

Minister: Outlaws To Be 'Sternly' Confronted

NC2905173893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that any outlaw who uses firearms must realize that he will be dealt with very sternly and that the police will not hesitate to use weapons in circumstances where the law permits it.

The interior minister remarked that from now on any criminal activity will be confronted with the utmost firmness.

The interior minister today handed a 1,000-pound award to police conscript Jamal 'Abd-al-'Ati of the Transport and Communications Police for his exceptional performance of duty. The conscript, whose duty consisted of standing stand guard at the al-Hadrah workshop at Alexandria's Sidi Jabir police station, was also promoted to the rank of sergeant.

New 'Extremist' Group Uncovered; 840 Arrested

NC2905185793 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] It was announced in Egypt today that 840 people, including Palestinians, have been arrested after forming a new extremist organization called the Vanguards of Islam [Tala'i' al- Islam]. Most of its members are already members of the al-Jihad Organization.

Meanwhile, Assistant Interior Minister Major General Mansur al- 'Isawi has announced that the police have identified 17 al-Jihad members who participated in the bombing of a Cairo coffee-shop in February, killing three people, and detonating a booby-trapped car near a police station in Central Cairo eight days ago, killing seven and wounding several others.

Security Chief: al-Jihad Tied to Bombings

NC2905101893 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 29 (AFP)—Seventeen Muslim militants from the group that assassinated president Anwar al-Sadat are suspected in two Cairo bombings that killed 10 people including two tourists, a senior official said Saturday.

Cairo's director of security, General Mansur al-'Isawi, told the pro-government AL-AHRAM daily that police have identified and implicated 17 members of al-Jihad in the February 26 cafe bombing and a May 21 car bomb.

Al-'Isawi did not say whether the 17 suspects have been arrested or whether authorities were still looking for them.

The official also said the same suspects were behind Thursday's explosion that wounded three policemen and two civilians at a checkpoint in northern Cairo. Police said the devices used in the three attacks were similar.

The bombing at a cafe on Cairo's central al-Tahrir Square killed an Egyptian and two foreigners, while a car bomb outside a police station last week killed seven people.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, the main underground Muslim militant group in Egypt, had denied any involvement in the two fatal bombings.

The Jihad, which split from the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in the early 1980s, is responsible for the assassination of president Anwar al-Sadat in October 1981 and parliamentary speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub in October 1990.

Among the hundreds of militants arrested in January and February and who are awaiting trial are members of a group called "Restructured Jihad."

Since a resurgence of fundamentalist violence in March 1992, police have generally attributed the attacks to the al-Jama'ah al- Islamiyah, which has also claimed responsibility for most of them.

Tightened Security Marks Eve of 'Id al-Adha

NC3005185493 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 May 93

[Excerpts] On the eve of the blessed 'Id al-Adha feast, the Egyptian security services adopted exceptional measures to guard against violent incidents during the holiday. The authorities today arrested 170 persons in Alexandria and 23 in Cairo, all suspected of belonging to extremist groups. Security measures were especially tight around historical sites, the Cairo subway, cinemas, and theaters.

Our correspondent Mu'tazz al-Dimardash reports:

[Begin al-Dimardash recording] The tightening of security measures coincided with speculation from some quarters that a presidential decree will soon be issued referring two new cases involving suspected extremists to a military tribunal. The cases are currently being examined by a state security court.

Security sources said that the police will concentrate their forces at historical locations where foreign tourists are found, subway stations in and around Cairo, railways stations, and cinemas and theaters, which the extremists regard as contrary to tradition. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian Interior Ministry has canceled all police leave during the 'Id al-Adha holiday to guard against attacks by extremist groups in retaliation for the death sentence passed by a military court on 27 May on six members of the extremist groups convicted of bombings and attempting to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

In a clear signal that there will be no leniency with the perpetrators of terrorist acts, a security source denied a report that the Egyptian police are considering a plan to permit extremist religious groups to organize marches in Upper Egypt towns to protest recent death penalty sentences. The source said this report is totally unfounded. [end recording]

Banned Islamic Group Members Attend Prayers

NC3105114593 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpt] Asyut, Egypt, May 31 (AFP)—Some 2,000 members of the banned al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] movement attended dawn prayers Monday to mark the Muslim feast of sacrifice in this fundamentalist stronghold of south Egypt.

The 'Id al-Adha prayers were held at a state-run football field in Asyut, where police maintained a low key presence compared to the usual armoured vehicles and barricades.

After the ceremony, which marks the end of the annual Muslim pilgrimage, al-Jama'ah activists distributed tracts calling on the Egyptian people to support their year-long effort to overthrow the secular government.

Almost 2,000 fundamentalists marched peacefully Sunday amid strict police surveillance in Asyut. Other protests were held in the neighbouring towns of Manfalut and Abu Tij.

"We will avenge the victims of the barbaric military courts," the al-Jama'ah pledged in placards carried by the demonstrators.

A group of 50 children protestors carried banners which read: "We have become orphaned although our fathers are still alive."

Analysts believed that the al-Jama'ah must have obtained the tacit agreement of the authorities to hold the marches, but a security official in Asyut denied there was any deal. [passage omitted]

Government Criticizes Amnesty Report on Rights

NC3105104593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—Egypt has reacted to the latest Amnesty International report on human rights in Egypt by emphasizing that assessing the state of human rights in a society should not be based on individual practices that represent exceptional cases, but on a comprehensive study of state policies in all human rights- related fields.

The Egyptian reply to the report pointed out that Egypt had expected a firmer condemnation by Amnesty International of threats to the freedom of opinion, thought, and religion, since the organization has always been known to defend individual rights and freedoms. Egypt has not known Amnesty International as a defender of terrorism and terrorists in violation of its statutes, the reply said.

Ambassador Na'ilah Jabr, director of the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Department, said the Egyptian reply stressed that the assessment of human rights in a given country by a non-governmental organization should be made within the perspective of the social, economic, cultural, and political realities prevailing in that country.

The Egyptian reply stressed that it is hard to deny the major impact terrorism leaves on the legislative process in the world at large and the Middle East in particular. This impact is represented by the imposition of emergency laws, the introduction of legislative amendments designed to confront terrorism, and the adoption of strict security measures.

It added that an analysis of the Amnesty International report will show that there is no political pattern in Egypt

that precludes respect for man's basic rights and freedoms. It remarked that the cited cases are very limited individual allegations in a country of 60 million people.

The reply noted that Egypt has some reservations about the terms the organization used in its report, particularly the term "armed opposition groups." As far as Egypt is concerned, these groups do not represent political opposition, the reply stressed. Opposition in Egypt is represented by the multiparty system. When extremist thought resorts to force or threatens to use force, it turns into terrorism, the reply explained.

The Egyptian reply reiterated that the Egyptian authorities respect the role being played by local and nongovernmental organizations concerned with human rights. Because they believe in the importance of human rights, the Egyptian authorities believe that these organizations should be given the opportunity to seek and publicize facts, it said.

Out of its eagerness to sustain constructive dialogue with these organizations, Egypt believes that this dialogue should be founded on clear-cut principles. It explained that these organizations should commit themselves to internationally recognized human rights principles and norms without trying to politicize them; they should be careful in verifying information without getting carried away by questionable allegations; and that they should publish the replies of the Egyptian Government, which is the credible authority.

The Egyptian reply pointed out that the Egyptian policy on human rights is based on a number of principles:

1. Democracy is the primary guarantee and the principal national instrument that monitors man's rights and duties. Egypt has taken giant strides along the democratic road by securing freedom of expression, the multiparty system, and freedom of the press;

2. There is a nationwide plan concerning human rights, based on a clear vision of relevant issues and a strong desire to enhance human rights; and,

3. Egypt believes in the need to enhance cooperation with the United Nations and its affiliated organizations, because it is the international organ primarily concerned with enhancing and monitoring the principles and patterns of human rights.

The Egyptian reply noted that Egypt played a positive role in preparing for the world human rights conference scheduled to be held in Vienna. It noted that the Egyptian authorities granted all the necessary facilities to the Arab non-governmental organizations conference held in Cairo 10-12 April to prepare for the international conference. Egypt also has provided all the necessary facilities to secure the participation of all organizations, Amnesty International included, in that conference and welcomed its convocation in Cairo, the reply concludes.

Libya

Country's Pilgrims Head for Jerusalem by Land

LD3005215093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] A source at the hajj affairs bureau at the General People's Committee for Utilities, Tourism, and Communications told JANA that the Libyan Arab pilgrims were obliged to head for Jerusalem by land after the Saudi authorities refused to welcome them by air. This contradicts the void resolution 748 which exempts humanitarian and religious cases from the embargo.

The source added that the hajj affairs bureau is surprised at the refusal of the Saudi Government to welcome the Libyan pilgrims by air to perform the hajj duty. This refusal obliged them to leave the planes and head by land for holy Jerusalem.

The source affirmed that the bureau brings the attention of the Islamic nation to the difficulty of the situation around the holy Islamic sites.

Cable al-Qadhdhafi

LD3105170393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Jerusalem, 31 May (JANA)—The Arab Libyan pilgrims have sent from Holy Jerusalem a cable to the brother leader of the revolution. Here is the text:

From Holy Jerusalem, the first of the two Qibla and the third holy place, the Arab Libyan pilgrims send their most sincere congratulations and best hopes to the leader of the great 1 September revolution, the brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. They express their deep regret at being obliged to visit the al-Aqsa mosque without prior permission from the basic people's congresses, after the Saudi authorities had blocked their way in their trip to Holy Mecca by land, and prevented Libyan aircraft from reaching it by air. After having suffered the hardship of a trip of thousands of kilometers by land, they found that the doors of Mecca and Medina had been shut in their faces by the Saudi authorities on orders from the West, and under the pretext of the unjust resolutions.

We Arab Libyan pilgrims, acting in contravention of the standard [Libyan] legal regulations, proceed in this action of ours from the principles of the Great Green Charter, and express our deep indignaton at the hardship and damage we have suffered due to these unjust resolutions, and from here, from Holy Jerusalem, we pledge to you to continue the march on the revolution path, and to be loyal to the principles of the revolution. Forward. If God helps you, no one can vanquish you. Many happy returns of the day.

From the Arab Libyan pilgrims. Jerusalem, 31 May

Issue Statement

LD3105215793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Jerusalem, 31 May (JANA)—The Libyan Arab pilgrims issued a statement in Jerusalem this morning. It said:

We are here because we had been prevented from performing the pilgrimage for two years and from performing the 'Umrah [minor pilgrimage] for two years as a result of the adherence of the Saudi Government to the resolution that had been issued by the Christian states enforcing an air embargo on the great Jamahiriyah.

We were hoping and also were looking forward to the holy places being made neutral places by the Saudi Government so that the Muslims could perform the pilgrimage and the 'Umrah in freedom. We also hoped that Saudi Arabia would refuse to comply with any measures that bar the performance of the religious rites in Mecca and Medina.

Our nation and Arab and international public opinion are aware that we have tried on numerous occasions (?to repel) this injustice. We have made numerous contacts regarding this, and the General People's Committee addressed King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz regarding this matter. The issue of preventing Libyans from performing the rites of their faith was also raised at Arab and international conferences and recently at the conference of the Islamic foreign ministers that was held in Pakistan almost immediately before the pilgrimage season.

It has become clear that the Saudi Government was adhering to its compliance with the embargo resolution and that it would not allow the Libyan planes that carry Libyan pilgrims to land on its soil. It also participated in prompting some countries not to facilitate the arrival of Libyan planes. The Saudi Government announced that it would allow the landing of the Libyan planes only after obtaining permission from New York. This was a matter that is not allowed, and we would not accept it.

We, in the face of this situation, call upon the Muslims and the mojahedin, and particularly the mojahedin in Yemen and Iraq. We are not asking the governments, in this connection, to liberate Mecca and Medina.

In the face of this suffering that prevented us from arriving in Mecca and Medina, we found ourselves forced to perform the Hajj rites in Holy Jerusalem, the first of the two kiblas [direction to which Muslims turn in prayer], because it is Arab first, and because the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque is a mosque for the Muslims. Because the places in Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem are all occupied, there is no difference to us if we went to Mecca or Jerusalem; rather, it is possible to arrive easily and comfortably in Jerusalem by land, and we have arrived by land.

On this occasion, we call on all Muslims all over the world to liberate Jerusalem, which should be the capital of the Palestinian state. Our presence in Jerusalem does not in any way mean a recognition of Israel, because it is our conviction that it is neither a state nor a definite geographical location, but merely a name of one of the prophets mentioned in the Holy Qur'an.

We, through our long history, coexisted with the oriental Jews in the shadow of Islamic tolerance before 1948, respecting them and living with them. As for those who came from the West who were uprooted from the countries—including the Russian and the Falasha Jews—they must go back to their countries, because if we accepted the immigration of the Falasha Jews to Palestine, then we should accept the forcible displacement of the Ethiopian tribes to Yemen because they are of Yemeni origin.

The return of 4 million Palestinians to Palestine and the creation of the Palestinian democratic state—which brings the Arabs and the Jews together—is the correct solution, because the United Nations, which joined forces to fight Hitler, conspired against the Arabs and Jews and involved them in a war of annihilation to get rid of them.

We know that the United Nations created the state of Israel and recognized it as a conspiracy equally aimed at the Arabs and Jews, because the United Nations hates the Jews. Their support for the Jews and arming them is a conspiracy to accomplish the aim of annihilating them, whereby the Christian West has decided to fight the Muslim East to the last Jewish soldier. They wanted to use the Jews as mercenaries, because the West has learned a lesson from the Crusades, which the Christians waged by themselves against the Muslims. They want to fight the Muslims this time by using the Jews as mercenary soldiers.

This is the story of the creation of the so-called State of Israel and supporting it by arms, because they want it to wage the war by proxy. Therefore, we call on the Jews to topple the Zionist leadership, which is torturing and deceiving them and pushing them to become mercenaries and pawns in Western hands. Concerning the oriental Jews, we consider them brothers, who coexist and live with us.

We declare our full sympathy with the Palestinian deportees who are spending the 'Id without shelter in southern Lebanon. We also affirm our sympathy and support for the stone-throwing fighters who have risen up for the sake of freedom and are ridding their homeland of occupation.

The significance of our presence here in the courtyards of the al-Aqsa Mosque is a declaration that Mecca and Medina have been made out of bounds to us as a result of the Saudi Arabian Government's commitment to the air embargo resolution that was imposed against us by the Christian states. If it were not for our presence here,

Muslims throughout the world would not have known the truth behind preventing us from the pilgrimage.

We affirm today that the continuation of the unjust measures and the embargo against us are not justified. The embargo inflicted on us great harm in various fields. In fact, it has cost numerous victims as well as the crash of the Libyan Arab airlines plane on 22 December 1992.

The number of victims of this terrible incident nearly equalled the number of the victims of the Pan Am plane regarding which two Libyan citizens were accused. This was exploited so that the embargo would be imposed against us—an embargo that also included the supply of spare parts, the equipment needed for our aircraft, and also the absence of expert technicians who test the planes. This was a matter that led to the crash of the Libyan airliner—which constituted a human tragedy—the responsibility for which falls on the Western states because they want to achieve in order to avenge themselves from the Libya Arab people.

We call on Muslims to work for keeping the holy places in Mecca and Medina open and within easy reach of Muslims who travel to them to perform their religious duties. These holy places should not be under the influence of the fluctuations and paradoxes of international politics.

[Signed] From the Libyan Arab pilgrims, Holy Jerusalem

[Dated] 31 May 93

Tripoli Imam Regrets Saudi Stance on Hajj

LD3105074193

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 0428 GMT begins carrying a 67-minute relay of the 'Id Al- Adha prayers from an unspecified square in Tripoli. An unidentified Imam gives the sermon. He speaks about the teachings of Islam and the significance of 'Id Al-Adha, and also urges Muslims everywhere to unite, "Especially in these critical circumstances in which Arab Muslims are being put to the test, as the wolves of mankind and the states of blasphemy, as well as the gangs of tyranny and corruption have united against them, wanting to harm their dignity and put an end to their entity, as well as to plunder their land and sanctities. Brother Muslims, the enemies of Islam will use every means for humiliating this nation and fighting Islam. They do not hesitate to tamper with the resolutions the international community adopt against Islam and to transform the Security Council into a tool for dominating and terrorizing the Islamic peoples."

He says that "examples of this are many and quite clear. At a time when the unjust blockade against our Muslim Libyan Arab people continues for a second year, because of merely suspecting two Libyan citizens, UN resolutions against the Israelis are not implemented, yet the Israelis have been defying the international community for more than 40 years. Scores of resolutions were adopted in favor of the Palestinians without any of them being implemented."

He says "This is categorical proof that the enemies of Islam are administering international relations and the UN establishments in a way that suits their own interests. We are looking forward to and still hoping that Muslims throughout the world will translate their solidarity with us into action following our being deprived of performing the rites of our religion, the hajj and the minor pilgrimage for two years as a result of the unjust resolution."

He adds that this Muslim people "Appealed to King Fahd Bin-'Abd Al-Aziz, through the General People's Congress, to translate the neutrality of the holy places in Mecca and al-Madinah into reality, and asked him to ensure that the Saudi Government would not accept implementation of any measures that prevent Muslims from performing the rites of their religion. Nevertheless, the Saudi Government insisted and was adamant in implementing Resolution No. 748, and refused to welcome the Libyan airliners carrying pilgrims, despite the fact that the said resolution—although it is unjust and unfair—excluded from the measures of the ban air travel for humanitarian and religious reasons. We hoped that the holy places and the religious rites would not be involved in the game of international politics and its contradictions. It is illogical that we should get permission from the capitals of the Christian states so that we can perform the hajj." The Imam further says that "On this great day we call upon all Muslims throughout the world to take practical steps in order to guarantee the neutrality of the holy places so that they will remain open always for all Muslims without restrictions or obstacles. Mecca and al-Madinah should administratively remain neutral to be run by Muslims in an Islamic administration which does not come under any local or international authority." He gives the Vatican as an example, and ends his sermon speaking about the question of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and calling for more solidarity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Lauds Egypt's Bid To Solve Crisis

NC3005123893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi, assistant to the Egyptian foreign minister, has said that Libyan revolution leader brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has thanked Egypt for hosting the upcoming African summit in Cairo. He said al-Qadhdhafi is in contact with President Husni Mubarak to consult on various African problems. Al-Qadhdhafi stressed Libya's interest in a successful African summit in Cairo and voiced hope that it will produce positive results and serve the African peoples' interests.

Brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi praised Egypt's role in finding a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis. Ambassador Hijazi delivered a message from President Mubarak

inviting al-Qadhdhafi to attend the African summit on 28 June and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the OAU. He said Egypt is interested in Col. al- Qadhdhafi's participation in the upcoming summit to usher in a new era of African cooperation and confront current African problems.

Al-Qadhdhafi Visits Ras Ghedir Area

LD3105210693 Tripoli JANA in English 1409 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Maa 31 [31 May] Jamahiria News Agency—Within the pattern of his constant instigation towards the achievement of total Arab unity and his direct involvement in all actions leading to the abolition of regional formalities which have been imposed by the colonialists to separate the people of the one Arab nation, the leader of the revolution made a field tour yesterday in the area of Ras Ghedir, in which he had previously demolished the man-made border unit, in the 7-th. of Al-Tayer [April] 1988.

During the tour the leader of the revolution re-confirmed that the man-made borders between the people of the one Arab nation is completely senseless and inconceivable and that it produced a tragic situation that affects all Arab citizens negatively. He stressed that such border units obstruct the Arab economic development process.

He emphasized that his tour in the area enabled him to feel the sufferings of the ordinary Arab citizens, and said: Where is the guilt if a citizen buys a sweet-melon or a box of potato for his family and then he finds that it is confiscated by the border unit. He added: When I discussed the matter with the customs officials I realised that they were right, police and security authorities were also right, but the ordinary citizen has no right due to the regional formalities which legitimise such procedures, the citizen loses his right, even in a sweet-melon. [sentence as received]

The leader of the revolution called for the abolition of all formalities, as far as the Arab Libyan side is concerned, even if that was unilateral? [punctuation as received]

Morocco

French Foreign Minister Arrives for 1-Day Visit

LD2805220593 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] Meetings and contacts between Morocco and France continue to consolidate the relations between the two sides, relations which are deep-rooted in history. The visit French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is paying to our country falls within this context. He was received on arrival by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation.

[Correspondent] On the first visit after the formation of the new French Government, Alain Juppe, French foreign affairs minister, arrived this evening in Morocco within the framework of a visit lasting 24 hours. [passage omitted]

The initial meeting between the chiefs of the Moroccan and French diplomacy provided an opportunity to discuss a number of issues at the level of bilateral relations, and Morocco's relation with the EC and also its international relations. The meeting also provided an opportunity to study the possibility of developing bilateral relations and consolidate the principle of consultation.

Received by King

LD2905122593 Rabat MAP in English 1207 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Rabat, May 29 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Friday [28 May] evening at the royal office visiting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. The audience was attended by Moroccan Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan Ambassador to France Abbas el Fassi and French ambassador to Rabat Henry Benoit.

Alain Juppe, who arrived earlier in the day for a 24 hour visit to Morocco, also conferred with his Moroccan peer on bilateral relations, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other common interest issues.

Ties, Bosnia Discussed

LD2905162893 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] The French foreign minister has returned from his visit to Morocco. Alain Juppe held talks yesterday with Hassan II in Rabat. At the center of the discussions was bilateral cooperation, but also Bosnia. Patrick Adam reports from Rabat:

[Adam] As is always the case in such talks, nothing has filtered out about the meeting between Alain Juppe and Hassan II. We have nevertheless learned that Morocco wants an increase in bilateral cooperation. Paris is already Morocco's prime partner in many areas, but the kingdom still feels that European, and especially French investments are insufficient. It is also very eager for cooperation in the areas of technology and culture. Among the subjects of common interest is emigration, especially when it is clandestine. In parallel to a vast program, to which Europe will be associated, aimed at developing the northern region so as to eradicate the prevalent drug culture, the sovereign argued in a recent interview on French television for a transfer of technology which will enable Moroccan workers to be tied down in the country.

Among the international questions of common interest were the Middle East peace process and the fate of the Bosnian Muslims. Morocco, already present in Somalia, is considering sending blue helmets to Bosnia. From

there on, the king of Morocco could encourage other member states of the Islamic Conference Organization to do the same.

Meets With Premier, Departs

LD2905165993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpts] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe left Morocco this morning after a 24-hour visit. He was received by His Majesty King Hassan II yesterday evening.

Alain Juppe held a news conference at Rabat's Sale Airport which was attended by a large number of representatives of national and international media. The conference focussed on his visit to Morocco, which he described as very positive and fruitful and one that would give a fresh impetus to Moroccan-French relations at every cultural and economic level.

The French official stressed that the choice of Morocco for his first visit to a country in the Arab world demonstrates the firmness of relations between the two countries. During the news conference, Alain Juppe referred to his audience with His Majesty King Hassan II and his meetings with members with his majesty's government. These meetings enabled them to agree on improving relations between the two countries in all spheres, according to the French foreign minister. He recalled that his visit to Morocco marks the beginning of a new era of fruitful and constructive cooperation between the two countries.

Alain Juppe also expressed the French Government's readiness to support the negotiations currently under way between Morocco and the EEC. [passage omitted]

During his talks this morning with Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani the distinctive and historical nature of Moroccan-French relations was stressed. The meeting was an opportunity to assess various aspects of bilateral relations and their future prospects, particularly in the humanitarian, economic, cultural, and technical spheres. Mohamed Karim Lamrani focused on the importance given by Morocco to the draft partnership agreement between Morocco and the EEC on which negotiations are being held between the two sides. The prime minister also pointed out the economic and social development plan for the kingdom's northern provinces.

King's Adviser Interviewed on Various Issues

NC2905111493 London MBC Television in Arabic 2134 GMT 28 May 93

[Interview with Ahmed Benyahia Bensouda, adviser to King Hassan II, by Kalthum al-Sa'fi on the "Face to Face" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Sa'fi] We cannot discuss Morocco or the Arab Maghreb without broaching the issue of the Western Sahara. There are reports of another referendum to be organized by the United Nations. The Western Sahara is preparing for a visit by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, who said the United Nations would organize the referendum to solve the Western Sahara problem by the end of this year. Does Morocco believe this is a realistic expectation?

[Bensouda] Morocco has always called for a referendum. It can never oppose such a move. Morocco welcomes the referendum and seeks to resolve the issue, which it sees as (?completely resolved). Visit the Western Sahara today, and you will see the changes since it returned to Morocco on the 19th [not further specified]. Morocco welcomes the referendum, which was delayed because Morocco wants every citizen to participate in it.

There are citizens who fled the Western Sahara to escape the oppression of colonialist rule in 1953. When Mohamed V was exiled, people demonstrated to protest the exile. The Spanish colonial rule repressed them and many fled north.

When independence was announced in 1956, more demonstrations took place in Western Sahara, and many people were imprisoned and killed. Those who could fled north.

In 1958, the French and Spanish colonialists collaborated. A war was under way between the Algerian liberation army and France. The army launched attacks from the Western Sahara. The French and Spaniards agreed to liquidate it. More people fled north to avoid the fighting.

A census by Spain in the Western Sahara to prepare for the referendum puts the population at 94,000.

[Al-Sa'fi] What is it now?

[Bensouda] It is very difficult to say. The Polisario and those behind them want no one to vote except those who remained behind under Spanish occupation until 1995 [as heard]. They want to exclude those who resisted, fought, struggled, and fled the Western Sahara in 1953, 1956, and 1958 to preserve their religious and national principles. Morocco disagrees. We believe that participation in the referendum is a right for all those who are proven citizens of the Western Sahara.

Morocco also objects to some residents of Mali and neighboring areas coming to the Western Sahara and getting Western Saharan ID's to sell their votes in the referendum.

[Al-Sa'fi] But the UN secretary general proposes that all the concerned parties should vote.

[Bensouda] We believe that all Western Sahara people living in al-Dakhlah, Layoun, Boujdour, and Esmara, those who fled to the north in 1953 or 1956 or 1958, and those who were detained should take part in the referendum.

[Al-Sa'fi] Will the referendum be held this year?

[Bensouda] Morocco is ready for a referendum any time, even tomorrow.

[Al-Sa'fi] The referendum is important for Morocco; so are the coming legislative elections, which have been postponed twice, if I recall correctly.

[Bensouda] My dear lady, the elections were not postponed. The king has slated them for 25 June.

[Al-Sa'fi] But there was an earlier date, wasn't there?

[Bensouda] You are right, but this is an old story. The political parties made some demands. Reorganization took place. Election procedures and lists were revised, which took time, etc. The date for the elections was postponed. The new date, 25 June, stands. I do not expect it to be altered.

[Al-Sa'fi] Do you believe the measures will be ready?

[Bensouda] I believe they will.

[Al-Sa'fi] Is the postponement of the elections linked with the date of the referendum?

[Bensouda] There is no connection. Several elections took place; they had nothing to do with the referendum. [passage indistinct]

[Al-Sa'fi] Regarding the elections, the Democratic Bloc—the opposition in Morocco—intends to run with one candidate; this is a precedent in Moroccan history. Do you believe this is part of the efforts to deal with the government in Morocco?

[Bensouda] When the new Constitution was enacted with some amendments, it was a qualitative leap toward democracy. It gave citizens the right to join any party they wish. It also gave the parties the right to act. The political parties have a right to present their candidates, and it is not against the Constitution if they want to cooperate and deem it in their interests to present just one.

[Al-Sa'fi] You said that amending the Constitution is part of consolidating the democratic practice in Morocco. You know the democratic process cannot be enhanced without freedom of information. Since you worked in this field, what do you know about this issue?

[Bensouda] Our press is free. No newspaper has been (?suspended). A newspaper will be (?suspended) if it publishes reports that are banned by law. But to criticize the government and ministers and their actions with such frankness that it reaches the point that I can't say [words indistinct]. There are now more than 400 newspapers. The press has absolute freedom in Morocco.

[Al-Sa'if] But don't you believe the press law requires a review, as the opposition has repeatedly demanded?

[Bensouda] Nothing is perfect. I'm not saying the freedom of the press is perfect. Recently, there was a seminar on press horizons. Political and media circles presented their views. The message that his Majesty King Hassan II addressed to the meeting was appreciated and admired. In his message, his majesty responded to their demands. The message found delegates making recommendations and (?proposals) that will certainly influence the status of the press.

[Al-Sa'fi] You are well informed about the problems of the Arab Maghreb. You made several mediation efforts among the members of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. To justify our optimism, what is the scale of the problems among the AMU members. Have these countries overcome some of these problems?

[Bensouda] The unity of the Arab Maghreb was based on (?common struggle). We will have no future without the unity of the Arab Maghreb. We can look at Europe as an example. Germany and France fought several wars. After World War II, they agreed to establish a united Europe. [passage indistinct] They have made great strides, but they have some way to go. We in the Arab Maghreb must emulate them. We have started. There are some people in the Arab Maghreb who do not want the AMU to be a federation, but hegemony and domination. [Words indistinct] the world will enter the 21st century with [words indistinct]. There are some difficulties and stalling. But it is certain that the Arab Maghreb and the AMU provide a firm base that will not [words indistinct]. To get an idea about the AMU's success and strength, we must note the agreements that have been reached. I don't want to elaborate. In 1990, five agreements were reached, and in 1991, six agreements [words indistinct].

[Al-Sa'fi] But you know it is not enough for countries simply to endorse the agreements; they must be put into practice.

[Bensouda] True, but to get married, you must sign a contract.

[Al-Sa'fi] Yes, but in the Arab Maghreb, which has been torn between slogans and ideologies, there is still an intention to maintain the union. But the facts do not reflect an atmosphere of unity. You know there is no room for comparison between the kind of cooperation among the Arab Maghreb states and that among European countries, for example. This is the reality.

[Bensouda] Madam: This gives rise not to pessimism, but to optimism. This will motivate us and push us to continue our march. I'm not saying there are no problems. Europe's attitude toward us—in future, it will give precedence to Eastern European workers and to Russians and priority to assisting Eastern Europe and Russia—will motivate us to return to each other, learn from this, and realize that we must cooperate. There are problems, difficulties, parasites, marginal issues, and ideas that do not suit our age, but this path is our only choice. Our problems are simple. All we need to do is give a little bit to reason and wisdom. The problem in the Arab east was love of domination by regimes that thought they were the strongest. Our problems in the Arab Maghreb lie in the existence of quarters that

imagine they must dominate, not be allies. Time is the best school and the best teacher.

[Al-Sa'fi] But if we wait too long, couldn't it prove to be the biggest conqueror?

[Bensouda] The age of a nation is not determined by its years. Nations pursue their path, their rule. Intellectuals and leaders are one thing, regimes are another, but people [words indistinct]. We are bound by amity, brotherhood, the Atlas [mountains], the Mediterranean....

[Al-Sa'fi, interrupting] But don't we need a decision?

[Bensouda] The decision has been made, but it must be put into practice. The decision was officially made in Marrakech, where the world saw the five leaders swear and take an oath in red Marrakech, the city of [words indistinct].

[Al-Sa'fi] Would it be too optimistic to say that a summit of all the leaders of the Arab Maghreb could be held and that the initial enthusiasm could be restored so that....

[Bensouda, interrupting] There is no reason such a summit cannot be held. I believe that deep down, every official is full of enthusiasm. But there is a fog that must be cleared. The future is for unity and the people.

[Al-Sa'fi] Do you believe the so-called security solution adopted by Tunisia and Algeria, for example, or Egypt, although it is outside the AMU, is enough to overcome the crisis of religious extremism?

[Bensouda] True Islam rejects violence. God Almighty says to his prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him: Invite (all) to the way of thy lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: For thy lord knoweth best who have strayed from his path. [Koranic verse] He also says: And dispute ye not with the people of the book, except with means better (than mere disputation). [Koranic verse] He tells the prophet: The apostle's duty is but to proclaim (the message). [Koranic verse] So, Islam is a religion of cooperation and dialogue. Events in the Arab and Islamic arenas need to be analyzed, because they constitute a serious malady.

If we want to treat a disease, we must diagnose it before prescribing the medicine. It seems we want to prescribe medicine before diagnosing the disease. Developments in the region have resulted from an accumulation of events. For more than a century, the Arab and Islamic world encountered [words indistinct] and (?missionary) onslaughts by colonialist countries. At the end of World War I and with the breakout of the Russian revolution, the Arab and Islamic world confronted ideological onslaughts. Afterward, they confronted Zionism. These onslaughts confused the Arab mind. After independence, the leaders of the Arab and Islamic worlds did not know the reality in their countries. Some, but not all, failed to consider their people's feelings or the Muslim creed. They challenged them in their beliefs. Families ignored their duty to educate their sons. Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayer and peace be upon him, said: A baby is born without faith, and his parents convert him to Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. Schools also lagged in their duties.

[Al-Sa'fi] I don't believe any of these countries gave up the task.

[Bensouda] I did not say all the countries, only some. People need to see their leaders set an example. Some rulers ignored their people's sentiments. As Jamal-al-Din al-Afghani [19th century reformer] said: The Islamic people's creed is like a fire under ashes. When you remove the ashes, you will see the embers.

[Al-Sa'fi] Does your analysis apply, say, to Turkey?

[Bensouda] I was going to discuss this. The funeral of the former Turkish president [words indistinct] of the Turkish rule and demonstrated that the Turkish people are Muslim, that everything Kemal Ataturk and his successors did was to no avail, and that the Islamic creed survived. The media described appeals at the funeral as unprecedented, providing proof that the truth will emerge. So, it appeared to our people that [words indistinct] of their secret. The leaders must first consider their people's feelings. True, some who exploit things use these religious feelings for political purposes. The danger lies in these people, but there is no danger for genuine Muslims. Those who seek to exploit Islam for political gain cause the problems. The government should attend to security; they have a right to defend it. They must work to restore psychological and spiritual stability to their people.

[Al-Sa'fi] How does Morocco handle this phenomenon, since its experience is different?

[Bensouda] There are several political parties in Morocco.

[Al-Sa'fi] Aren't there also political parties in Algeria that fought 50 [as heard]?

[Bensouda] Political parties were allowed to function in Algeria only recently. Previously, there was only one party—the National Liberation Front—and it ruled Algeria for 30 years.

[Al-Sa'fi] Was there a multiparty system in Tunisia?

[Bensouda] [Passage indistinct]

[Al-Sa'fi] Weren't at least four parties established in the early 1980's?

[Bensouda] [Words indistinct] I do not want to talk about these issues. The Muslims confronted challenges that they didn't face in the previous era. [words indistinct]. There are several parties in Morocco. Every party is working to attract its supporters. As well as the political parties, there are ulema councils that oversee the organization of Muslim affairs in every district. There is also the Higher Council chaired by the king

every year or when the need arises. There is also the Ulema League [words indistinct]. Then there's the Islamic group that has the right [words indistinct]. So, the method of rule should be reviewed. I don't say this to the regimes that defend themselves. I hope they realize that it is useless to use force alone. [passage omitted]

Three Parties Agree on Cooperation

LD2905145193 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Rabat, May 29 (MAP)—Three Moroccan political parties, namely the Constitutional Union 'UC', the National Democrat Party 'PND' and the Popular Movement 'MP' expressed here Friday a will to 'consolidate concertation among them both during the legislative elections and after' in the frame of a 'national understanding'.

In a joint statement, the three parties announced they decided to include their action in the frame of an open national understanding that respects each of the three parties' own identity. 'The new frame of action takes into account complementarity existing between the three parties' programs and objectives and their will to contribute to supporting and meeting the Moroccan people's aspiration to democracy, freedom and development in line with the constitution', the three parties' leaders said in a press conference.

Through the national understanding, the three parties said they mean to defend institutions and values of the Moroccan society based on national unity, the perfection of national unity and recovery of territories still under foreign rule, reinforcing democracy and guaranteeing collective and individual liberties of Moroccan citizens.

The three parties' leaders announced each of the three will present its own candidates but when it appears that one of the candidates has more chances to win more votes, the other two candidates will withdraw.

Five other parties had formed over a year ago a democratic block and two of these parties decided to present joint candidates in each constituency.

Sudan

U.S. Envoy Said Seeking Unification of Rebels

EA2905075593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Today's AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH says the visit to Nairobi by the U.S. ambassador to Sudan was aimed at uniting the rebel factions under the leadership of rebel John Garang. The newspaper cited sources in the [U.S. State Department's Bureau of] African Affairs as saying that the U.S. ambassador had proposed the idea of so-called safe havens in southern Sudan.

The United Movement, under the leadership of Carabino Kuany Bol, has absolutely rejected this proposal. A political source has noted that the Nasir faction has affirmed its absolute rejection and declared, during the talks which it held recently with the Sudanese Government in Nairobi, that it is determined to combat any foreign force in southern Sudan.

Embassy Refutes Statements by U.S. Congressman

EA3005143593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 29 May (SUNA)—The Sudanese Embassy in Washington has denied in its weekly publication a statement by U.S. Congressman Frank Wolf, which contained charges against Sudan that were published by the "WASHINGTON POST" and broadcast by the Voice of America recently.

The embassy confirmed that many of the charges made concerning the conflict in the south are incorrect. The embassy said that there are some people who believe that they are experts in Sudanese affairs. It said that Mr. Wolf's comments indicate that he is mocking Sudan. The embassy pointed out that the congressman is working in a wicked way to determine the future of Sudan and to arouse sentiments against the Islamic orientation of governing Sudan. The embassy pointed out that Mr. Wolf's allegations about the persecution of Christians in Sudan, without the presentation of any evidence, is just one example. It said it is incumbent on the congressman to prove that such things are happening in Sudan now.

The embassy refuted the congressman's allegations [word indistinct], pointing out that many countries in Africa suffered from the U.S. slave trade. It said his allegations about Sudan [words indistinct] slaves to some Arab countries such as Libya and Saudi Arabia. The embassy said that Mr. Wolf claimed that he obtained the information from the American Embassy in Khartoum, but this embassy has denied preparing a report on the issue. Later, Mr. Wolf retracted his statement and said that the embassy was not the source of his information.

The Sudanese Embassy clarified that the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers had strongly denied these allegations and charges against Sudan which had been raised by certain circles with the aim of damaging the reputation of Sudan and obstructing the peace efforts and the civilization of the country.

The general secretariat also denied the enslavement of women and children from the south to work in the north of Sudan, Libya, and some Arab countries, as claimed by the American congressman. The embassy made it clear that the black man was regarded as a slave by law during different periods in the West, but such a state of affairs does not exist in Sudan as Islamic teachings and values are opposed to this.

The embassy said that Mr. Wolf, in his desperate attempts to prop up his allegations, had published a letter demanding members of the U.S. Congress and President Clinton to take certain measures against Sudan and to pressure the Sudanese Government on its Islamic orientation. Despite this, Mr. Wolf claims he is not opposed to Islam.

The embassy stressed that Mr. Wolf's allegations have no truthful basis, but reflect a policy of double standards which the West is now following. These are improvised policies against religious and political orientation. The embassy also stressed that Mr. Wolf's insistence on his allegations is intended to propogate the idea that the Arabs and the Sudanese are slave traders. The embassy said that Mr. Wolf can continue his campaigns against Sudan, but he will not be able to damage the people of Sudan and their rightful cultural orientation.

SPLA Rebel Factions Sign Cease-Fire Agreement

AB2905192793 Paris AFP in French 1704 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] Nairobi, 28 May (AFP)—Rebel factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on 28 May in Nairobi signed a cease-fire agreement which provides for the withdrawal of their forces from certain locations in the south of the country to allow emergency transportation of humanitarian aid.

A joint communique has been signed by the main SPLA faction, led by John Garang, founder of the rebel movement, the "dissident SPLA- United" rebels, led by Riak Machar, and by the U.S. ambassador to Sudan, Donald Petterson.

According to the communique, the two factions should start withdrawing their troops at 1800 from within a radius of 72 km around the Ayod, Kongor, Waat, and (Yuai) landing strips. The withdrawal must be completed by the same time on 5 June.

"No soldier will be authorized to penetrate into this demilitarized zone," the communique pointed out, affirming that "no obstacle will disrupt the humanitarian efforts being made by the United Nations and the nongovernmental organizations that operate in the region."

The two factions also pledged to guarantee the security of members of the humanitarian organizations and their property.

Negotiations on the demilitarization of other sectors in southern Sudan will continue on a bilateral basis, the communique added.

The two rival factions have been meeting in Nairobi for five days with Mr. Petterson in an attempt to end the conflict between them. Fighting between rebels has posed very serious problems in conveying humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of people in this war-torn region. [passage omitted]

On 27 May Mr. Petterson said that he had also held talks with Sudanese Government representatives, who pledged to observe the cease-fire decreed last March between the government and rebel forces. [passage omitted]

Air Force Helicopter Crashes, One Killed

AB3005152293 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, May 30 (AFP)—A Sudan Air Force helicopter has crashed into the White Nile, five kilometres (three miles) south of here, killing one of the two crew members, press reports said Sunday. The AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH daily identified the dead as Flight Technician Ibrahim al-Tom.

The pilot, Lieutenant Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim, survived the crash Saturday and was in good condition.

The paper said the helicopter was on a routine flight when its engine failed and crashed into the river. The NEW HORIZON daily said the pilot was rescued by a swimmer and that the same swimmer brought out the body of the dead crew member from the river.

Bahrain

Irish Prime Minister Reynolds Confers With Amir

JN3105101493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 31 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, today received Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Bahrain.

The two sides made a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various fields, particularly the economic and medical fields. The amir lauded the progress and development in Bahraini-Irish relations, and stressed Bahrain's concern for consolidating cooperation with Ireland in the interest of both peoples. Talks also dealt with several regional and international issues of mutual interest.

For his part, Reynolds commended the strong bilateral relations, and stressed his country's concern for enhancing cooperation with Bahrain, particularly in the health, economic, and trade fields. [passage omitted]

Says Meeting 'Constructive,' Departs

JN3105185693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Manama, 31 May (WAKH)—Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds left Manama for Dublin today at the end of a two-day visit to Bahrain. Upon his departure for home, the Irish prime minister was seen off by Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, and Irish ambassador to Bahrain Brandon Lyons.

Prior to his departure, the Irish prime minister made a statement to WAKH, expressing his happiness with the meeting he held with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, calling it fruitful and constructive.

The Irish prime minister said his talks with his highness the amir dealt with bilateral ties and ways to enhance them in all areas. Reynolds said his country looks forward to the visit the amir of Bahrain will make to Ireland, noting that the Irish president visited Bahrain [words indistinct] an invitation to his highness the amir to visit Ireland, reiterating his country's desire to enhance its ties with Bahrain, particularly in the area of trade.

With respect to the talks he held with Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, the Irish prime minister said his talks with the interior minister addressed bilateral cooperation and coordination in all areas and issues of common interest.

Amir Decrees Amnesty for Expatriates

JN3105101193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Manama, 31 May (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Interior Ministry has stated that His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has decreed an amnesty for several Bahraini nationals who chose to leave the country and reside in foreign countries after committing crimes against public security. Those nationals also carried out activities that violated Bahraini laws and regulations.

This generous amnesty comes on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, and the measures to implement it have been taken, the source added.

Saudi Arabia

Government Upholds Rejection of Marches During Hajj

LD2905085393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0155 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 28 May SPA—Responding to Iranian media reports and statements made by some Iranian officials during the last two days, to the effect that the Saudi authorities have banned the Iranian pilgrims from organizing gatherings and marches they intended to stage yesterday, Thursday [28 May], in Mecca, a Saudi official source told SPA today, Friday, as follows:

The Government of Saudi Arabia wishes to reiterate its categorical rejection of the staging of marches, gatherings, and demonstrations in general, and the ensuing slogan chanting, picture carrying and flag raising, especially during the hajj season, when hundreds of thousands of Muslims come to this holy land to perform the pilgrimage obligation in an atmosphere filled with awe, tranquillity, security, and reassurance, which enables them to perform the pilgrimage and worship in Mecca and Medina according to God's orders and the teachings of his loyal prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him. [passage omitted]

The source went on to say: The Government of Saudi Arabia, as the guardian and servant of the sanctity of the two holy mosques, and the one that takes care of the pilgrims' comfort in the Holy Land, will not allow anybody at any time to perform acts that contravene Islamic beliefs, or to commit an action that would lead to the breaching of the country's security, and will absolutely show no leniency in this respect.

Thousands of Pilgrims Assemble at 'Arafat

LD3005130393 Riyadh SPA in English 1218 GMT 30 May 93

[Excerpts] 'Arafat, May 30, SPA—Today hundreds of thousands of people gathered in 'Arafat, 10 kilometers east of Mecca. 'Arafat day constitutes the climax of the

pilgrimage season. Last night the pilgrims spent their night in Mina and early today proceeded to 'Arafat. At sun set today the pilgrims will move back from 'Arafat to Muzdalifa where they will spend their night. Early tomorrow they will return to Mina where they will throw stones at the bigger satan, cut their hair and perform the sacrificial rite (slaughtering of sheep, camel and cows) before proceeding to Mecca to perform tawaf al-ifada (perambulation around the holy Kaaba).

The concerned Saudi authorities have made all the required arrangements to enable the pilgrims perform their rituals in comfort and ease. The concerned authorities including traffic officials, National Guards personnel, Saudi scouts and all other related officials are standing by to help the guests of God. Thanks to the modern and excellent networks of telephone and telex lines and postal facilities, the pilgrims can easily contact their relatives in the four corners of the world. Hospitals, clinics and health centers are spread around the holy places to provide the pilgrims with excellent medical servies.

Meanwhile, 1,000 buses owned by the Saudi Arabian public transport company (SAPTCO) will contribute to the transportation of the pilgrims during this year's pilgrimage season. SAPTCO's Director General Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Uhali said the buses will transport the pilgrims from Mina to 'Arafat and the vice versa. Moreover, Dr al-Uhali said the buses will transport the pilgrims from Jamarat area in Mina to the holy mosque in Mecca.

To ensure excellent services SAPTCO has set up tens mobile workshops along the roads leading to the holy places in addition to maintenance points in Mina and 'Arafat, said Dr al-Uhali and added SAPTCO will make 3900 of its personnel, including drivers, technicians and administrators at the disposal of the pilgrims. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Was'i, the minister of pilgrimage and endowments, said the plan of the ascendence of the pilgrims from Mecca to the holy places was carried out in a successful manner. He said, in line with the directives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, all possibile facilities have been made to ensure the comfort of the pilgrims. [passage omitted]

In line with the directives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi television through its first and second channels will cover live the pilgrimage rituals at the Kingdom's expense. Dr. 'Ali al-Naja'i, the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Information for television affairs, said the television has mobilized its human and technical potentialities for the coverage of the pilgrimage season through the satellites. At least 20 announcers, representing the Arab and Muslim pilgrimage missions, will participate in the coverage of the rituals in different languages through the first and second channels, he said. Moreover, the television will transmit programs on religious, health and cultural enlightenment. The television covered today the ascendence of the pilgrims to 'Arafat as well as zuhr (noon) and asr (afternoon) prayers from Namira mosque at 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

AL-YAWM Deplores 'Chaotic Acts' During Hajj

LD3005132693 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, May 30, SPA—The Saudi newspapers shed light today on the pilgrimage season and the excellent services being extended by the kingdom to the pilgrims. Jeddah-based AL-BILAD highighted the excellent servies being extended by the kingdom to the pilgrims and said thanks to these services and facilities, more than two milhon pilgrims can easily perform their rituals in comfort and ease. The gigantic projects implemented by the kingdom in the holy places including the roads, telecommunications networks and health facilities will positively contribute to facilitation of performing the rituals, said the daily. The kingdom believes that it is its responsibility to ensure the comfort of the pilgrims, added the daily.

Dammam-based AL-YAWM deplored perpetuation of chaotic acts during the pilgrimage season and said the kingdom has made it very clear that it will never tolerate staging processions and demonstrations in the holy places. The holy places are for worshipping God and performing hajj rituals but they are not for staging demonstrations and carrying photographs and banners chanting with political slogans, added the paper. The kingdom, which has been entrusted to take charge of the sanctity of the two holy mosques will never hesitate in severely punishing those who try to undermine the security of the pilgrims, added the paper.

Chad President Idriss Deby Arrives for Pilgrimage

LD2805153193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1402 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 28 May (SPA)—His excellency the president of Chad, Colonel Idriss Deby, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah today to perform the pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister Urges German Investments

AU2805162793 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 28-29 May 93 p 3

[Dietmar Petersen report: "The Saudis Do Not Understand German Investors' Hesitant Attitude"]

[Text] Riyadh, 27 May—When Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah al-Zamil speaks of direct investments by German industry in his country, it sounds a bit like disappointment at unrequited love.

German capital investments in the Kingdom have stagnated for several years now, even though the country, viewed economically, has come out of the Gulf war as a winner. The world's largest oil producer is continuing its expansionist course.

He said in a HANDELSBLATT interview that, while he understands that German industry is particularly active in eastern Germany, he also believes that it is obviously not doing enough to ensure its export markets in the Kingdom. "It is wrong to believe that things will continue as they have been," he says, referring to Germany's chronic export trade surplus with Saudi Arabia. "The modern form of safeguarding export markets is to promote exports through direct investments." Seen this way, "the Germans act very traditionally. They seem to be happy with their export surplus," says al-Zamil.

Saudi Arabia Expands Oil Industry

The minister leaves no doubt about long-term consequences. If German industry does not show more commitment as a direct investor, it will lose Saudi market share. He says that, for years, German cable producers, for instance, virtually "possessed" the whole market in the Kingdom solely through exports. Al-Zamil: "They had a market share of 95 percent." They believed they had an apparently unassailable position and therefore failed to set up their own production facilities in the country. Meanwhile, three local producers who have set up business have largely replaced the German suppliers, says the politician.

In fact, the Riyadh government pursues an active industrialization policy despite its strict market economy orientation. U.S. economists of the Saudi National Financial and Economic Information Center in Riyadh consider the mixture of active macroeconomic stimulation and differentiated microeconomic control a characteristic of Saudi development management. Being the country's most powerful contract-placing authority, the state will certainly not leave its industry policy priorities out of account in international tenders.

About 20 years ago, Riyadh began with an active industrialization policy. Within the framework of the strategy "diversification on the basis of oil," the share of the manufacturing industry of the non-oil sector in the gross national product increased to 12 percent. The development of industrial production structures is showing visible results. An industrial share of 22 percent is a medium-term industrial policy goal, says al-Zamil, without letting himself be nailed down to a timeframe. The current fifth five-year plan ends in 1994. "We do not have any fixed growth rates," he says. "In a free market economy, entrepreneurs determine the growth." The manufacturing sector has grown by an average six percent in recent years. Al-Zamil: "We will reach our goal soon."

The industrialization quota that the Saudis seek to achieve is ambitious, because the non-oil sector and the oil sector have been developed and expanded beyond average in recent years. The production capacities will be expanded at an increased rate. In addition to the modernization of existing, and the construction of new, refineries, the production output will be increased to 10 million barrels per day by means of planned investments of possibly $20 billion. Prior to Operation "Desert Storm," Riyadh had given up the position of a swing producer—not half-heartedly as it had done between 1986 and 1989, but definitely—and increased oil production from 5.4 to the current 8.5 million barrels per day. Oil remains the country's most important foreign exchange resource.

Kingdom Increasingly Exports Industrial Products

Nonetheless, officials in the Saudi Kingdom speak about the "second generation of economic growth." Basic industrialization, including the development of largely export-oriented oil refineries and a petrochemical basic industry, has virtually been completed. The infrastructure is in place. The phase of large projects that was initiated by the state has led to the period of development of "down-stream" [preceding word in English] activities—reaching far beyond the petrochemical sector. Economic growth is now accelerating the development of increasingly specialized markets, says the minister, and he adds that this dynamism opens up attractive markets, in particular to German medium-sized companies with their often highly specialized technologies which are leading the world. Of course, large German firms continue to be welcome, too, says al-Zamil.

The efficiency of Saudi Arabia's industry is also illustrated by the fact that, in the past two years alone, the responsible national investment authority approved 410 industrial projects with a planned investment volume of roughly $3 billion, says the industry minister, who describes Saudi Arabia as a threshold country. Industrial export activities are being continuously and swiftly developed. In 1992, $3 billion worth of semifinished and finished industrial products were exported.

The minister, who is also board chairman of the Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)—the largest Saudi concern—accepts the thesis that the preferential treatment that the Saudi Government grants foreign investors is international standard, that competition for foreign capital, technologies, and management know-how is tough, and that the demand exceeds the supply.

Presentation Planned in Bonn

Nonetheless, al-Zamil sees additional advantages for his country in international competition for investment and production locations. At the intersection of three continents, Saudi Arabia offers inexpensive energy, one of the world's best infrastructures, and a first-class telecommunications system. On this basis, the food industry, the production of replacement parts for the manufacturing sector and the automobile industry, the pharmaceutical

industry, and the markets for petrochemical and chemical special products offer good chances for foreign and, in particular, for German investors. Al-Zamil likes to mention the Hadeed Steelworks as a model of a former German-Saudi joint venture.

Foreign investors do not need a Saudi partner, even though the government prefers such an option. However, those who want to make use of specially attractive financing conditions—10-year loans at a total interest rate of 2.5 percent, which is practically only a processing fee—must accept a Saudi capital share of at least 25 percent.

At the invitation of Hans-Peter Stihl, president of the Federation of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, who toured the Kingdom recently, the Saudis will present the advantages of Saudi Arabia as an investment location in Bonn in November. If Minister al-Zamil takes part, he will lobby for his thesis that the more intensive trade exchange is, the more joint ventures should be set up—the safest method to promote exports.

Yemen

Tribesmen Free U.S. Engineers After 4 Days

NC2905123093 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, May 29 (AFP)—Two U.S. engineers for the Hunt Oil Company and their driver were freed on Saturday after they were held hostage for four days by Yemeni tribesmen, a company spokesman said.

Harvel Bennett, 37, and Bob Hicks, and their Yemeni driver, all kidnapped Tuesday in the Ma'rib region by armed Daham tribesmen, arrived at Hunt offices in Safir, 200 kilometers (120 miles) east of Sanaa, a spokesman told AFP.

He said they were in good health and would reach Sanaa later in the day.

They were set free following negotiations between Colonel Yahya Missar, based in Ma'rib, and tribe members, the spokesman said, adding he did not know the details behind their release.

Yemeni laborers in Ma'rib, near Safir, also reported that three western tourists had also been taken hostage on Tuesday, but the Hunt spokesman said the report was false.

The kidnappings, according to informed sources in Sanaa, were aimed at securing the release of four members of the same tribe who were sentenced to death for the murder of a police officer on May 5.

Yemen has seen a spate of kidnappings of foreign oil company workers. In July, four Americans and two Yemenis working for Hunt were kidnapped for seven hours before the army freed them.

Parties Agree To Form Coalition Government

NC2905204293 Paris AFP in English 2017 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, May 29 (AFP)—Yemen's three main political parties agreed Saturday [29 May] to form a coalition government after signing a parliamentary pact, the official SABA news agency reported.

The power-sharing agreement will give the three parties an overwhelming majority in the parliament, which was elected after the first general elections in the unified state on April 27.

The new government will take into account the respective political weight of each party, the agency said.

SABA said a tripartite "coordination document" was signed by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, head of the General People's Congress (GPC), 'Ali Salim al-Bid, leader of the Yemen Socialist Party and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, who heads the Islamic party al-Islah [Yemeni Reform Grouping].

The document stipulates the three parties' adherence to democracy and multi-party politics as well as the right of the opposition to play its role." He also affirmed the three parties' adherence to shari'ah, or Muslim law.

Outgoing premier Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas was charged Sunday with forming a new national coalition government, following last month's elections.

The ruling GPC of former north Yemen won 123 seats, followed by the Islamic party al-Islah with 62 and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of the former south with 56 seats.

On May 11, the GPC decided to form a parliamentary coalition saying all political forces could join the coalition.

Salih on Coalition, Border Dispute

JN3005111093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has explained that a new cabinet will be announced soon, and that, in the interest of the people, the portfolios will be distributed among the parties participating in the government coalition—the General People's Congress [GPC], the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG].

Asserting that there will be parliamentary opposition, President Salih said: There are more than 42 parties in Yemen, but only three of them scored highly in the elections. There will be opposition, even inside the GPC, the YSP, and the YRG. This is one of the special features of the Yemeni experience.

President Salih added: Certainly, there are opposition parties, which will try to assess themselves and their pursuit of political action, so the mistakes made in the

transitional period can be avoided. We hope that the opposition parties will play an important role in enriching democracy. We believe that no real democracy can exist unless there is a strong, effective, and objective opposition.

This came in an interview with the London-based AL-QUDS [AL-'ARABI], published today. Asked about statements on the possibility of reconciliation and promotion of relations between Yemen and the Gulf states, the brother president said: Yemen does not have problems with any Gulf state. The brothers in Saudi Arabia link the normalization of relations and bilateral cooperation to the border issue. Bilateral committees were set up to discuss this issue and find a mechanism to resolve it in such a way that the historic and legal rights of all parties will not be undermined. We do not link the normalization of bilateral relations to the border issue. The border dispute and bilateral relations are two separate issues. Good relations would undoubtedly resolve all bilateral problems, including border disputes.

Asked about recent press reports that Saudi Arabia has raised the border issue before the Arab League and lodged a protest memorandum against Yemen's demarcation of both its border and its longitudes and latitudes, he said: Yes, this has happened. The truth, however, is that the Yemeni people make claims to their territory in Saudi Arabia. This is because part of Yemeni territory is controlled by the brothers in Saudi Arabia, who still [?nationalize] and settle people in Yemeni territory. Replying to a question about when the Yemeni-Saudi expert committee on the border issue will meet, he explained that contacts will be made after the 'Id al-Adha holiday so that this committee can convene.

Asked about new developments in Yemeni-Egyptian relations, he said: Actually, our relations with Egypt are historic, although they are sometimes lukewarm or poor, particularly after the Gulf crisis. However, we have no problems with the brothers in Egypt, who have begun to understand our position. As is known, they seek to reunite the Arabs and resolve the problems preventing the restoration of Arab solidarity. This is something good, which we appreciate. The historic and deep fraternal relations between the Yemeni and Egyptian peoples will continue to be firm, even if relations between the two governments are sometimes lukewarm. However, this is a temporary matter that will end soon. Yemeni-Egyptian relations, which have been baptized with the blood of martyrs, are firm.

'Text' of Coalition Agreement

JN3005093293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC]; 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]; and Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Yemeni House of Representatives and head the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], have signed a government coalition and parliamentary coordination document among the GPC, YSP, and YRG. The pact specifies the bases and principles of joint action within the government coalition among the three parties. The following is the text of the document:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, Who has said: And hold fast, all together, by the rope that God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse]

The political parties and organizations signing this agreement realize the importance of concerted efforts at the current stage, at which our people stand on the threshold of a new era with hopes of entrenched democracy, party pluralism, and the peaceful transfer of power to reach the aspired national security, stability, progress, and prosperity based on justice and equality. This will be translated into words, conduct, and action in the state's departments and constitutional institutions. The signatories also believe that to achieve our people's hopes and aspirations, all parties, at this stage in particular, must cooperate and combine their efforts. They are convinced that achieving constitutional reforms, tackling economic problems, and rectifying the financial and administrative situation require team effort to achieve the supreme national interest. Thus, the three parties have agreed to form a government coalition and engage in parliamentary coordination in accordance with the following bases, commitments, and measures:

First: Bases

1. Belief in God and defending the homeland and the revolution and adherence to Islamic faith and its tolerant laws.

2. Adherence to democracy and political pluralism as a basic pillar of the country's political system.

3. Affirming the right of the opposition to exercise its constructive role of enriching and entrenching the democratic practice.

4. Abiding by the political action charter signed by the coalition parties.

5. Agreement to prepare a draft on constitutional reforms.

6. Agreement on the basic orientations of the coalition government's program.

7. Abiding by the media policy that will be agreed on and that will govern relations between the coalition parties.

Second: Commitments

1. To form a coalition government in which members of the coalition will participate. The makeup of the government will take into account the exigencies of the supreme national interest and its members' ability to implement

the set policies, to work swiftly to resolve citizens' urgent basic issues, and to draw up plans and programs to achieve balanced economic and social development. The government will take into account the respective political weight of each party in the coalition.

2. To abide by the government's collective responsibility before the Presidential Council and House of Representatives. Each minister will be personally responsible for running the affairs of his ministry in accordance with valid regulations and laws. Each minister will be enabled to exercise his legal authorities.

3. To abide by the provisions and regulations of the Civil Service Law. No member of the government should impose upon the administrative body under his control any of his party or political views, or use public funds in the interest of the organization to which he is affiliated.

4. If the relationship between a minister and the senior officials in his ministry lacks harmony and cooperation, the minister should report the matter to the prime minister, who, in turn, will hold necessary consultations and adopt the appropriate measures.

5. In order to maintain harmony and cooperation among the members of the government, the prime minister will work to achieve agreement and accord on important political issues and basic matters related to the policy and general trends of the state. If no consensus is reached on a certain issue, the member of the government has a right to record an oral or written objection, and at the same time, abides by the approved information policy. This should not obstruct policymaking.

6. The members of the Council of Ministers should abide by the instructions of the prime minister within the framework of the valid laws and regulations.

7. A committee should be formed to coordinate between the GPC and YSP bloc, on one hand, and the YRG bloc, on the other, in the House of Representatives in accordance with regulations that will organize this coordination in order to reinforce cooperation and integration between constitutional institutions within the framework of separation among the branches of power in a way that will not undermine the powers of the House of Representatives stipulated by the Constitution.

8. The parties to the coalition should announce all their agreements and charters.

9. The parties to the coalition pledge not to adopt stands that are contrary to the agreed on policies.

10. The signatory parties and organizations to this agreement adhere to the state's foreign policy. Their external activities should be confined to organizational relations with other parties.

Third: Measures

The following committees shall be formed to implement this agreement:

1. A committee for laying down the regulations for the work of the coalition within the Council of Ministers.

2. A committee for laying down the regulations for cooperation and coordination among the parties to the coalition within the House of Representatives.

3. A committee from the members of the coalition government to prepare the government's statement of policy in light of the approved basic policies.

Finally, any signatory to this agreement who finds that it cannot continue to participate in the government has a right to present the reasons for this to the prime minister. The prime minister, in turn, will hold dialogue with the concerned party to remove the reasons. If no agreement is reached, the party that wants to withdraw from the coalition will announce its withdrawal explaining the reasons and justifications. This announcement will be made through the media in the same way this agreement is treated. In any case, no party can withdraw before one year has passed since the formation of the government or six months before the date set for general elections.

Presidential Decree Names New Council of Ministers

JN3005132893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 May 93

["Text" of "Presidential Decree 68 of 1993" forming the Council of Ministers—read by announcer]

[Text] After taking cognizance of the Republic of Yemen Constitution and Presidential Council Decision No. 4 of 1993, which entrusts brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas with forming the cabinet, and after the Presidential Council's approval, the chairman of the Presidential Council has decided the following:

Article 1: The Council of Ministers shall be appointed as follows:

Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister

Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister

Mujahid Yahya Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister

Muhammad Haydarah Masdus, deputy prime minister

Muhammad 'Ali Haytham, minister of social security, social affairs, and labor

Engineer 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, minister of construction and repair

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani, minister of planning and development

Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil, minister of the interior

Muhammad al-Mutawakkil, minister of the interior

Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, minister of transportation

Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, minister of industry

Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral resources

Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, minister of fish resources

Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah, minister of housing and urban planning

Muhammad Salim Basindwa, minister of foreign affairs

Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of civil service and administrative reform

'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, minister of justice

Ahmad Muhammad al-Anisi, minister of communications

Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information

Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, minister of youth and sports

'Alawi Salih al-Salami, minister of finance

Sadiq Amin Abu-Ra's, minister of agriculture

Haytham Qasim Tahir, minister of defense

Muhammad Hasan Dammaz, minister of local administration

Jarallah 'Umar al-Kuhali, minister of culture

Dr. Abu-Bakr al-Qirbi, minister of education

Ahmad 'Ali al-Sallami, minister of electricity and water resources

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Qadir Bafadl, minister of supply and trade

Dr. Najib Ghanim, minister of health

Ghalib 'Abd-al-Kafi al-Qirshi, minister of awqaf and guidance

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the day it was issued. It shall also be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued at the Presidency on 9 Dhu al-Hijjah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 30 May 1993.

[Signed] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih

Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas

Iranian Speaker's Remarks Termed 'Irresponsible'

JN3105121993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has described Iranian Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri's statements against Iraq as conflicting with the simplest ethical norms.

In a statement to INA, Salih said that these irresponsible statements evoke disapproval and show that the Iranian regime is experiencing real fear of the Iranian peoples who are indignant at the regime's irresponsible policy. This policy has led Iran into this tragic situation.

Salih asserted that the Iranian rulers will fail, exactly as they failed in the past, to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and independence. He explained that these statements are totally in line with the Iranian regime's policy and with the Iranian rulers' behavior. As the saying goes, a person's words are an expression of his breeding. Iraq is the only world country that does not bow to the storms of the big and small satans, he added.

Daily: Iran's Strategy Seeks To Contain 'Weak Links'

JN2905081493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0641 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that Iraq will remain the basic guarantor for the protection of the Arabian Gulf's security, Arabism, and stability.

In an article today, the newspaper says Saudi King Fahd offered the biggest service to Zionism and the "Arch Satan" after he turned the holy land into a springboard for the armies and the aircraft of the infidels to use to strike at Iraq. On his part, [Iranian President] Hashemi-Rafsanjani completed this service during the Mother of Battles with his involvement in the chapter of treachery and treason and the abortive attempts to divide Iraq.

The paper adds that the recent Iranian-Saudi wooing is interesting because it is taking place between two regimes with "common concerns," including growing domestic discontent and instability. However, differences between the two regimes do exist, primarily a heritage of contradictions that erupted during the Khomeyni era.

The paper explains that after its total defeat by Iraq in Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle [Iran-Iraq war], Iran gave up the strategy of striking at the strongest link in the Gulf—Iraq—and adopted a strategy of striking at and containing the weak links. The paper indicates that Iran thinks the Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, are weak links.

The paper indicates that the deterioration of Iran's status and economic capabilities during past years has prompted Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is attempting to hold on to power, to show a readiness to serve the United States, both officially and practically, as well as working to seize the wealth of some or all Gulf states whenever possible.

Concluding, the paper says that this explains the objectives of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's acrobatic leaps and provides more glaring evidence of the Iranian regime's chronic deviation and exacerbating domestic crisis. This rips asunder this regime's last cloak of religion and alleged hostility to imperialism and Zionism.

Saddam Congratulates Eritrean President

JN3005144393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulation to Isaias Afewerki on his election as president of the Republic of Eritrea. The cable says: On your election as president of the Republic of Eritrea, we are pleased to send you our heartfelt congratulations and brotherly wishes, beseeching Almighty God to grant you good health and success in your mission. We also wish that the fraternal Eritrean people, who have achieved independence through their long and heroic struggle, will enjoy prosperity, security, and stability.

Yemeni Parties Pledge Support for Ending Blockade

JN3005165193 Baghdad INA in English 1445 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, May 30, INA—Yemen's political parties and organizations as well as trade unions stressed their full readiness for serious work toward putting an end to the embargo imposed on the Arab people of Iraq and Libya and in support of Palestinian uprising (intifadah).

In a telegram addressed to President Saddam Husayn at the end of their recent meeting with a delegation representing Arab People's Forces Conference headed by the conference's Secretary General Mr. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, Yemeni's political parties and organizations stressed that the economic embargo imposed against the Iraqi people went beyond human principles and reflected the aggressive tendencies of the imperialist forces and their misuse of international legitimate resolutions. It confirmed that Iraq's unity was a fact throughout history and that American conspiracy could not undermind it regardless of all types of aggression, interference, pressure and embargo imposed on the people of Iraq.

BABIL Attacks 'Double Dealing' of U.S. Policy

JN2905135293 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 29, INA—BABIL daily for today has emphasised that the grave and actual violations of human rights going on in Iran, Palestine, Egypt, Syria,

Kuwait and Saudia are added evidences of the American President and double dealing of the U.S foreign policy.

A daily article titled "The Ugly American" said today the American President was adopting lies as being international facts and it is inevitable that this shortsightedness would not serve the United States at the level of the world including with regard to capitalist countries allied to the U.S. itself.

BABIL has also mocked the news concerning America's endeavour to form a tribunal against the war crimes in Yugoslavia, confirming that the real criminal is the United States itself and the Western countries that ignited the civil war in Yugoslavia and between the peoples of the former Soviet Union and practised connivance with certain parties in former Yugoslavia at the expense of other parties.

The daily said the international tribunal must be against the American and Western criminals that launched the war of aggression on Iraq and still maintaining besieging the people of Iraq. They are those who launched against the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Cuba and led bloody military coups in Latin America.

It has further added that the international tribunal must be carried out against those who have built their countries on the basis of plundering the 3rd World peoples' riches and killed the best sons of those peoples during the colonialist era and also against those who are returning to the same policy at these times and not against others.

Army Reportedly Shells Kurdish Fields Before Harvest

NC3005111293 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Zakho, Iraq, May 30 (AFP) - The Iraqi Army has been shelling wheat fields in the Kurdish-held north, just days ahead of the annual harvest, Kurdish farmers charged Sunday [30 May].

Farmers said they feared for the harvest, due to start within the next week.

The target was the fields of Baydrah in the Shaykhan area, two kilometres (one mile) from a line between Kurdish fighters and Iraqi troops, they said. There were no reports of casualties.

A Kurdish fighter told AFP, with the noise of shelling in the background, that the attacks had started a week ago.

Kurdish authorities said they would cut back on the transit of goods between their region and Mosul to the south, under Iraqi control, to strip any pretext for the shelling.

But the decision was likely to spark oil shortages since the Kurds rely on smuggling from the rest of Iraq to combat a blockade imposed by the Army.

Kurdish Party Leader Urges Uprising Against 'Agents'

JN3005103893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0653 GMT 30 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—Ahmad al-Atrushi, secretary general of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, has appealed for a great uprising by our people in Iraqi Kurdistan against agents and hirelings.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, al-Atrushi said that it is high time for serious and earnest work and for cooperation among all the sons of our Kurdish people to purge the land of Kurdistan of the agents and hirelings who have fallen into the arms of colonialism and Zionism.

He explained that having gained their freedom and having enjoyed their full legitimate rights, our Kurdish people in Iraq cannot accept being controlled by a handful of mercenaries and agents of Zionism or continuing to live in a state of misery and despair under the despotic U.S., French, British, and Zionist forces. [passage omitted]

Daily Criticizes Rebel 'Gangsters' in North

JN3005134393 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 30, INA—A number of Iraqi dailies today emphasised that gangsters of rebels in the north area of Iraq were living in a state of hysteria which attacked their leaders owing to the stepped up popular indignation against them. The dailies condemned the call by the agents, falsely claiming their representing of the Kurds, for the United States, Britain and France to prolong the period of the air exclusion zone in the north for five years.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today said the Kurdistan Autonomy Region had lately been the scene of resentment escalation against the oppressors of Kurdistan region people and thieves of their aliment, through staging many angry demonstrations which surrounded headquarters of the gangsters, and carried slogans condemning them, as well as graffiti on wall against their practices.

The daily maintained that the decision of reducing the existing presence of UN guards in the north under pretext of assistance pushed those agents to make a tour of the allied states for begging aid and adoption of certain political stances.

Meanwhile, other agent elements embarked on unleashing statements and holding news conferences in an effort of fabricating lies against Iraq and its leadership.

The daily has further said it goes without saying that the hysterical condition accompanying behaviour and tours of these agents that Jalal Talabani and his alike ones

really comprehend the weakness of their position and exposition of falsehood of their slogans. [sentence as received]

AL-JUMHURIYAH added that those traitors were realising they were rejected and condemned throughout the homeland because of their unpatriotic stands. The daily concluded that their latest attempt to elongate the period of no-fly zone for other five years was an evidence on their bankruptcy and isolation.

On the other hand, AL-THAWRAH daily stressed that the abnormal situation in the north of Iraq would inevitably collapse because it has been founded by the will of imperialism and under armed threat.

The daily article added that that collapse would be the only normal outcome in Kurdistan region. It said the calamitous situation that had befallen Iraq's Kurdistan region resulting from the continuing imperialistic interference should be faced by revolution of "our Kurdish people" on all those tailpieces of aggression.

Regime Said Planning To Kill Kurdistan Front Leaders

NC3105151193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Tyrant Saddam Husayn's authorities are planning to liquidate a number of the Kurdistan front leaders in collaboration with Kurdish personnel still residing in northern Iraqi villages.

Reporting this, AL-WITHAQ newspaper said today the tyrant authorities are trying to determine the places frequented by Kurdish party and political cadres and other opposition figures or the roads they use, particularly in Klar, Chamchamal, Dahuk, and Irbil. The paper affirmed that a detailed plan has been devised to assassinate these cadres in cooperation with the ostracized regime's intelligence personnel and in collaboration with Kurds who cooperate with the regime. It said that there is particular emphasis on using booby-trapped cars to carry out these criminal operations.

INC Official Discusses Opposition's Goals

NC3005075893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 510 GMT 30 May 93

[Telephone interview with Hani al-Fukayki, deputy chairman of the Executive Council of the Iraqi National Congress, INC, in London, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Mr. al-Fukayki, good morning, and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Fukayki] Welcome.

[Husayn] I would like to begin the dialogue with a question about the implications of the current visit to Saudi Arabia by an Iraqi opposition leaders delegation that includes Major General Hasan al-Naqib, Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, and Mas'ud Barzani.

[Al-Fukayki] This visit was planned long ago. The INC is concerned, among other things, with strengthening ties with the Arab and Islamic countries neighboring Iraq. Saudi Arabia is a fraternal and neighboring country that has historical ties with Iraq. The INC is concerned with reassuring our brothers in Saudi Arabia about the INC's political course, particularly its emphasis on Iraq's unity, sovereignty within its international borders, and the independent political decisionmaking of the Iraqi opposition.

[Husayn] You have made an important remark. Reports have said that the Iraqi opposition has taken certain steps. Can we gather that the Iraqi opposition will take serious steps to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Fukayki] There is no doubt that the Iraqi opposition is a broad national coalition: There is an opposition in exile and inside Iraq. We indeed are determined to continue our struggle and persistent efforts to eliminate this regime and establish a plural constitutional democratic replacement.

[Husayn] Will you launch military operations?

[Al-Fukayki] We did not discuss this issue. We absolutely do not want to shed more blood of our dear Iraqi people, nor do we want to fight the Iraqi Army. We will resort to methods involving the minimum damage, blood, and pain for our people to eliminate this regime and establish a democratic alternative.

[Husayn] Reports have said that an Iraqi opposition delegation met with officials in the Clinton administration. Could you brief us on the dimensions of this meeting?

[Al-Fukayki] The INC is involved in coordinating with and learning the United States' views of Iraq's future and its current circumstances. The Iraqi opposition, or the INC, embodies a revival plan that goes beyond overthrowing the regime and establishing a democratic replacement. The opposition seeks to rehabilitate the judiciary, establishments, and civil society, and to build a middle class, work out the ideological and material preludes to democracy, and restore Iraq's Arab role in Gulf security. It also seeks to restore Iraq's share in the oil market and restore confidence in Iraq's currency, which has collapsed as a result of the existence of this regime. These are enormous issues and responsibilities, and they require time. Hence the importance of the role of the United States and the other major powers that have a say in these issues. The INC believes these issues involve direct and specific responsibilities that should be borne not only by the opposition, but by every Iraqi and Arab citizen.

[Husayn] The UN Security Council has unanimously passed Resolution 833 concerning the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border. How does the Iraqi opposition view the demarcation?

[Al-Fukayki] As you may know, the Iraqi opposition is not a constitutional body. Also, the Iraqi opposition cannot object to the UN Security Council under the current circumstances. The Iraqi opposition respects the sovereignty of Kuwait, believes in peace and stability for the region, and seeks to resolve all outstanding problems in accordance with international law and in a neighborly and peaceful way. The Iraqi opposition denounces the use of force as a means of settling problems.

As for the demarcation of borders, we do not view this issue in isolation. We expect all the Gulf brothers, particularly the Kuwaitis, to rebuild Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations on a new basis of tolerance, cooperation, nonintervention in domestic affairs, and respect for the independence of each country and its sovereignty over its territories.

Therefore, we see the demarcation of borders as part of a broader political issue, or, if I may say, a political approach [minhaj], through which the Iraqi opposition and the Kuwaiti brothers may reach an understanding. A democratically elected Iraqi parliament undoubtedly will be in a position to address all existing problems, establish neighborly relations, and pledge commitment to Kuwait's sovereignty over its territory.

[Husayn] If the Iraqi opposition takes power in Iraq, what will be the framework in which it will deal with the results of the UN resolutions, particularly those concerning the sanctions against Iraq?

[Al-Fukayki] Undoubtedly, once the current regime disappears and a new regime with a genuine commitment for democracy takes power, the new regime will use all of the Arab support and assistance it can get, particularly from the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt, to alleviate the repercussions of the aggressive and terroristic policies of the current Iraqi regime.

The Iraqi opposition hopes to lessen the effects of these sanctions, abolish some of them if necessary, phase out others, and eventually terminate all of them. The opposition hopes to see Iraq's debts reduced, and if possible, written off. This can be linked with the attitude and commitment of the new regime to democracy and human rights. The more the regime moves toward democracy and human rights, the more the Arab, international, and Islamic family will press for the abolition of the sanctions. These sanctions are unfair for the Iraqi people, who have never been responsible for the crimes the current regime has perpetrated against Kuwait and other neighborly countries. The Iraqi people have been a victim of these crimes as much as anyone else.

[Husayn] Thank you.

[Al-Fukayki] You are welcome.

Oil Minister Discusses Reserves, OPEC

JN3005181593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1617 GMT 30 May 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has said Iraq will continue to have a great impact on the world oil market because it has the second-largest oil reserve in the world—a fact no party or big power can ignore.

Speaking today at a news conference attended by INA and local newspaper correspondents on the 21st anniversary of the immortal nationalization decision, al-Hiti said that, with oil reserves of 112 billion barrels, Iraq brings balance and stability to OPEC's decisions because it is one of the founders of the organization. He stressed that Iraq supports OPEC and its decisions. [passage omitted]

Al-Hiti said Iraqi experts have discovered new oil fields. He said there are signs that the oil reserves in the country will increase.

Asked about the carbon tax the industrial countries are planning to impose on their oil imports, al-Hiti said the International Atomic Energy Agency has adopted this plan in order to confront the oil-exporting and developing countries and to enable the U.S.-led Western countries to control the oil market and the oil-exporting countries. He described the plan as unjust and said that it will affect the natural growth of the oil industry in oil-exporting countries.

He said the carbon tax, which starts at $3 and increases to $10 on each barrel of oil, will damage the oil-exporting and developing countries because oil imports from these countries will decrease. This will affect the volume of material and equipment Third World countries import from industrial countries. He pointed out that oil is underpriced, compared with other commodities whose prices have increased during the past 10 years.

The oil minister urged the OPEC states to reduce their oil production and not to allow consumer and industrial countries to increase oil storage in the world market. He stressed the need to take major steps to increase oil prices to foil the industrial countries' move to impose a carbon tax on their oil imports.

Minister Leaves for Geneva International Labor Conference

JN3105101893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and acting minister of labor and social affairs, has left for Geneva, along with a delegation, to take part in the 80th session of the International Labor Conference due to open on Wednesday [2 June].

He told INA that the three-week conference will discuss a report by the director of the International Labor Organization [ILO] on developing social security and social protection systems in the member states. The conference will also shed light on the role of the international organization in this regard and will examine various reports on implementing international agreements and recommendations, in addition to reports on the prevention of major industrial disasters. Moreover, the conference is expected to look at the organization's role in technical cooperation, in addition to the organization's report on the situation of Arab workers in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

He added that the Iraqi delegation will ask the ILO to work toward lifting the unjust economic embargo, in view of its negative impact on labor in Iraq. The delegation will also ask the ILO to pressure the governments concerned to unfreeze Iraqi assets abroad so as to reactivate plants and factories and benefit from their revenues.

Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak said the Iraqi delegation will take part in the meetings of the Arab group prior to the conference to coordinate and unify Arab stands toward topics on the conference's agenda.

He added that the delegation will also hold bilateral contacts with other delegations to explain the effects of the unjust economic blockade and show that its justifications no longer exist. The delegation will ask other delegations to pressure their governments to lift this blockade and to support Iraq's position at the conference.

The Iraqi delegation comprises Fadil Mahmud Gharib, head of the General Federation of Trade Unions in Iraq, in addition to several other people interested in the workers' situation in the country.

Merchants Reminded of Deadline To Sell Banned Goods

JN2905180093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 May 93

["Announcement" issued by the Trade Ministry in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] We would like to remind those merchants and sellers still in possession of goods banned by a previous decision that the deadline set by our first statement of 1993, issued on 22 April, to sell these goods on the local market will expire on Thursday, 3 June 1993, the last day of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

A committee from the Interior and Trade Ministries will implement this decision beginning Friday, 4 June 1993. We would like to draw your attention to this.

Rabin on 'Prerogative' To Rebuild Government

TA3005055593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 30 May 93

[Telephone interview with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, by Karmit Gay—live] txt [Excerpts] [Gay] Good morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning to you and to the listeners.

[Gay] Most of our questions pertain to the coalition crisis, but first we would like to hear your reaction to the murder in Hebron.

[Rabin] Unfortunately, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] killers have again perpetrated a brutal and utterly irrational murder. Their victim was a yeshiva student on his way to prayer in the Cave of the Patriarchs. We are naturally aware of the fact that murderous terrorist squads still exist, but we fight them with all our might. Since the closure, we have captured or shot more than 100 fugitives, most of whom had been involved in the majority of the murders in the past few months; some of them fled from the territories to Arab countries.

I would naturally like to extend my condolences to the bereaved family. We promise to do everything—everything—to catch and punish the murderers.

[Gay] With your permission, we will now address the coalition crisis. I will repeat a question you have been asked before: What has to happen to allow you to resolve this crisis by tonight?

[Rabin] Look, this crisis is unrelated to the central issues which this government, composed of a coalition between Labor, Meretz, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], has set down as national objectives and to which it is committed. The crisis stems primarily from the fundamental polarity of SHAS, an ultra-Orthodox party, and Meretz, whose stands are known. This polarity has nothing to do with the basic issues at stake, but rather with issues with which the public is familiar, which have existed throughout the government's term and which were expressed in various remarks.

My primary goal is to preserve this government, because I believe this government has already proved its ability to achieve things in many spheres, things that the previous government had been unable to do. These achievements lie in the sphere of peace; in the sphere of security inside the sovereign State of Israel as well as the territories—I say this despite the painful event in Hebron; in the sphere of economy—mainly in reducing unemployment and in greater opportunity for economic development; in education; and welfare, including the reinstatement of grants for children, which we had supported for eight years and have now carried out.

The coalition problem is still complex, but it is more of a symbolic than substantive nature.

[Gay] Does the problem lie in the name of the ministry to be allocated to Meretz?

[Rabin] Not merely the name, although it is one facet of the problem. The problem lies both in name and content. I would like to note that while SHAS, too, has made an effort, I have profound appreciation for Minister Shulamit Aloni's willingness to agree—although she did not have to do that—to make the formal gesture of giving up her post as education minister. For her and for Meretz, her move was somewhat of a sacrifice, and I hope that the SHAS and Meretz willingness to compromise in a bid to find a solution to the crisis will yield results by tonight. [passage omitted]

[Gay] In a letter you sent to Meretz two weeks ago, you spoke of the possibility of a 61-Knesset-member [MK] coalition, yet now you are reneging on that.

[Rabin] Indeed. I would like to add something. I think the two main achievements of the last elections, in which I led the Labor party, are the following: For the first time in 15 years, Labor emerged as the largest party by a significant margin, with 44 seats versus 32 for the Likud, the second largest party. The second thing that materialized after 15 years was the 61-MK buffer bloc, which prevents the Likud, the right-wing parties, and the religious and ultra-Orthodox parties from establishing a government on their own. These two factors have created a new situation, and we are greatly interested in preserving the buffer bloc, which prevents the establishment of a right-wing government in the present Knesset.

Yet in certain circumstances, the prime minister has a personal prerogative: He can rebuild everything from scratch by taking a certain step. [passage omitted]

Crisis Ends; Rubinstein Named Education Minister

TA3005194893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1920 GMT 30 May 93

[News conference with Minister Yossi Sarid following the special cabinet session in the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Text] [Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sheli Yehimovich] Minister Sarid, since we joined this news conference a little late, can you update us exactly what happened in the cabinet session? How did this crisis formally end?

[Sarid] The crisis was formally ended by appointing Amnon Rubinstein as education minister.

[Yehimovich] Is he education minister only, without the culture portfolio?

[Sarid] From our point of view, and from his personal point of view, he is only education minister.

[IDF Radio correspondent Natan Gutman] What about the formal aspect?

[Sarid] From the formal aspect he is education and culture minister. Shulamit Aloni will be minister of communications, science, and technology. She insisted that the additional title be dropped from the other titles [as heard], but all of the authorities in the area of culture will be transferred to her, as determined.

[Yehimovich] How do you feel following this month-long, nerve-racking crisis, now that it has ended with a whimper and with a solution that could have been attained a month ago?

[Sarid] This is the nature of crises. They always end in the manner they could have ended a month ago, and one always wonders: If this is the solution then why wasn't it reached a month ago? Apparently, however, this is the nature of crises. My feeling, as an Israeli citizen, not as a minister or a member of Meretz, is very difficult. It left a very bad taste in my mouth. I think it was totally unnecessary to deal with this crisis at such an important period. Those who created this crisis should do some soul searching.

[Gutman] Perhaps it is not pleasant to say, but Meretz came out as the winner because you received an additional portfolio.

[Sarid] Perhaps we profited on paper, but I would gladly forgo such profits because the profit of any particular constituent is always the loss of the entire government.

Cabinet Reshuffle Detailed

TA3005201793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The cabinet session is over, and the coalition crisis has ended. Shulamit Aloni will receive the science and technology portfolio, as well as that of communications. She will also be in charge of the Israel Broadcasting Authority and various areas related to the arts. Minister Amnon Rubinstein will be education and culture minister, although he said he will call himself education minister only. Minister Aloni will be in charge of most cultural areas. Minister Moshe Shahal will receive the energy portfolio in place of the communications portfolio he gave up for Minister Aloni.

The prime minister intended to hand over three areas from the Finance Ministry to Minister Shetrit, among them the Civil Service Commission, in exchange for the science and technology portfolio that he gave up. Finance Minister Shohat, however, was angry about the intention to take these areas away from him, and at present a special ministerial committee appointed by the prime minister is trying to resolve this issue. If Shetrit does not receive these Treasury departments, he will receive the Second Television Network as compensation.

Following the cabinet session, Minister Arye Der'i said that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] stood on principles, and that it received what it wanted. Minister Aloni said she could not say she was happy, but if this government advances the issue of peace and social issues then these changes will have been worthwhile. Minister Sarid said that everybody has a bad feeling following this crisis, adding that the party responsible for creating this crisis has to do some soul searching.

Labor Faction Criticizes Rabin

TA3105152493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The prime minister has presented his new cabinet appointments and ministerial reshuffles to the Knesset. The prime minister's statement was accompanied by catcalls from the opposition. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu announced that his faction regards the debate as one of one of no confidence in the government. The vote will take place next week.

Sharp criticism was leveled at the prime minister in the Labor Knesset faction over his handling of the coalition crisis. Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said that Yitzhaq Rabin's standing among the public has been damaged because he appeared to be carrying messages between Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef and Shulamit Aloni. Knesset Member [MK] Dalya Itzik said that it is inconceivable for MK's to be afraid to speak openly for fear of a public reprimand from the prime minister. Yitzhaq Rabin responded: I am happy to say that my position does not depend on Labor hacks.

No-Confidence Motions Postponed

TA3005084993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav has complied with Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss's request to defer the motions of no confidence slated for tomorrow. The speaker's request was made out of consideration for the Arab Knesset members, who will be celebrating the 'Id al-Adha festival tomorrow.

Our correspondent Rina Matzliah notes that the no-confidence motion, which had been submitted over what the Likud termed the government's inadequate peace process policy, was put off last week following the tragic death of soldiers in south Lebanon.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 30 May adds that "emulating the Likud, Tzomet has postponed the discussion of its motion of no confidence slated for tomorrow."]

Arrival of First Libyan Pilgrims Approved

TA3005110493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The first group of some 200 Libyan pilgrims is due to reach Israel tomorrow [31 May] in order to visit the Muslim holy places on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha sacrifice.

The senior political level approved the arrival of the Libyan pilgrims, who are due to enter Israel via the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has been in touch with the Egyptian authorities in recent days to coordinate the entry to Israel of the pilgrims. Under the plan, Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am will receive the Libyans at the Rafah border crossing.

Jerusalem political sources attribute a great deal of political significance to the move. Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is using it to signal his intention to improve ties with the West, while Israel is interested in signaling that it supports the idea of freedom of worship for all religions, even if it does not have diplomatic ties with Libya, which is considered an extremist enemy state.

Al-Qadhdhafi Invites Libyan Jews To Visit

NC3005171893 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, May 30 (AFP)—Israeli Jews of Libyan origin will travel to Libya in July for a fence-mending visit at the invitation of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, a spokesman for the Jews said on Sunday [30 May].

A group of 190 Libyan Muslims were meanwhile on their way to Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem to worship at al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, which together represent the third holiest site for Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Rafael Felah, who heads the World Association of Jews from Libya, told AFP that al-Qadhdhafi had invited hundreds of Jews of Libyan origin who currently live in Israel, Italy, the United States and other countries.

"It will be a reconciliation meeting with the Jewish community," Felah said.

"The Libyan authorities took the initiative because they want to turn a new page," he added.

Felah said the visit was planned on February 16 "during a two-hour meeting I had with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi."

The Libyan pilgrims were meanwhile expected Monday in Jerusalem.

They left Cairo by bus heading for the Egyptian-Israeli border and the occupied Gaza Strip.

Ahmad 'Izz-al-'Arab, director of Universal Project Tourism which represents the Israeli agency Ziyara Travel, said they planned to spend three days in East Jerusalem.

The group were originally planning to travel to Mecca but instead opted for Jerusalem under the instructions of al-Qadhdhafi, as a protest against Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia rebuffed a call from Tripoli for direct flights for Libyan Muslims to take part in the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, which reaches its climax on Sunday.

The U.N. Security Council slapped an air embargo and other sanctions against Libya on April 15, 1992 over two mid-air plane bombings in 1988 and 1989.

Nimrodi: Al-Qadhdhafi To Recognize Country

TA3105081793

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 31 May carries a live report by correspondent Roni Sofer from the Rafah border crossing, where approximately 200 Libyan pilgrims are about to enter Israel for the first time. Israeli businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi, who helped engineer the event, is interviewed over the telephone by IDF anchormen Ya'aqov Eylon and Ya'el Dan.

Nimrodi says that Saudi businessmen "Adnan al-Khashuqji, a man of vision, who wishes to bring peace throughout the world, worked for about five days in order to bring about this great day. He served as a middleman between al-Qadhdhafi and myself. He convinced al-Qadhdhafi to send these 200 pilgrims."

When asked about al-Qadhdhafi's motives, Nimrodi explains: "I met with al-Qadhdhafi's chief assistant, and we planned this visit. Al-Qadhdhafi is a politician and a very intelligent leader. He has recognized the recent changes in the world and is trying to adapt himself to the new circumstances."

Nimrodi asserts that al-Qadhdhafi "reached the conclusion that this was good for Libya, Israel, and perhaps also for the world. He expects us to help him out of his present situation." Nimrodi adds that al-Qadhdhafi expects Israel "to plead his case before the Americans and the international community. This is one of his purposes, and it all works out to Israel's benefit." Nimrodi then discloses that "the man understands, is preparing to, and wants to visit Israel, obviously, only after the pilgrims return home happy and contented, after fulfilling their duties before God and praying at al-Aqsa Mosque." Nimrodi claims that the Libyan leader's "secretary told me that al-Qadhdhafi intends to recognize the State of Israel and come on a visit." Reacting to his interviewers' expressions of disbelief, Nimrodi reiterates: "I fully believe that al-Qadhdhafi will visit Israel already this year," clarifying that this will only happen "after he recognizes Israel." Nimrodi expresses the hope that "the Foreign Ministry will approve the visit," noting that he "has not told them yet."

Says al-Qadhdhafi Planning Visit

TA0106103393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Jun 93 p 8

[Report by Yig'al Laviv and Yehoshu'a Hame'iri]

[Excerpt] Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is planning to visit Israel in a few months. He intends to head a Saudi-Libyan delegation that intends to invest billions of dollars in the Gaza Strip. This was reported to

the Israeli Government by businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi who handles the Libyan pilgrims' visit in Israel.

Al-Qadhdhafi's visit in Israel is planned to be the culmination of a plan the implementation of which started this week with the arrival of the Libyan Muslim pilgrims. The plan was designed in thorough discussions al-Qadhdhafi had held with Saudi businessman 'Adnan al-Khashuqji. [passage omitted]

In a first-ever conversation, the spokesman of the Libyan Embassy in Cairo confirmed to HADASHOT that he knows of the thaw in relations between Libya and Israel and that Jews' requests to visit Libya that will reach the embassy will be examined on an individual basis. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 June carries a pool report on page A1 adding: "Political sources in Jerusalem have stressed that no government element is holding contacts with Libya and said that the declarations by Minister Moshe Shahal and businessman Nimrodi that a normalization of relations is imminent and that al-Qadhdhafi might visit Israel are baseless."]

Shahal on Secret Contacts With Libya

TA3105093993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal hinted that Israel is conducting secret contacts with Libya. Shahal said that when the appropriate time comes to publish details of these contacts, the media will also be informed. The minister refused to divulge further details.

Speaking to our Haifa correspondent Qobi Mandel, Police Minister Shahal expressed the hope that the visit of the Libyan tourists would be followed by the normalization of relations between Israel and Libya. Shahal said that Israel had absolutely no grievances whatsoever with Libya.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0825 GMT on 31 May in the "Its all Talk" program carries a brief interview with Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am by correspondent Roni Sofer, live from the Rafah border terminal. As for his reaction to businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi's assertion that Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi would visit Israel, and asked whether the Israeli Government would welcome such a visit, Bar'am says: "In my opinion, yes." When asked whether he believes the report, Bar'am replies: "Today, when he brought these pilgrims, he had a clear interest to do so with regard to his relations with the Americans. However, if Israel benefits from such a step in the long run, I will be very happy."]

Beilin: Rapprochement 'Religious-Humanitarian'

TA3105105193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 31 May 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is today determined to throw cold water on the enthusiasm and optimism concerning the possible improvement of Libyan-Israeli relations. Beilin differentiates between the humanitarian-religious angle, such as the permits given to the Libyan pilgrims to enter Jerusalem, and the political issue, which is far from registering a change.

[Begin Beilin recording] I am not sure this visit heralds a political change. We must remember that Libya is in a unique situation. It is not like the other Arab countries: It is under a boycott; it has been isolated since it refused to extradite to the United States the two terrorists responsible for the plane blast. We must be very careful not to bestow legitimacy on al-Qadhdhafi as long as the whole world is boycotting him. He may well be taking advantage of the fact that we are in a continuous state of war with the Arab countries, and he may decide to surprise us with a visit. I suggest that we curb our enthusiasm, because we must not be the first to give him international legitimacy. [end recording]

The deputy foreign minister said he did not know of plans for Libyan ruler Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Israel in the coming year. He doubted the veracity of this news, which was imparted by Ya'aqov Nimrodi.

The possibility of rapprochement with Libya puts Israel in a political quandary with Libya, and furthermore, in a political quandary with the Arab world, he added. The United States leads the action against Libya, and in view of the international boycott, U.S. approval for Israeli-Libyan rapprochement is very doubtful.

To set our minds at rest, the deputy foreign minister added that the contacts have been so far coordinated with Washington.

[Begin Beilin recording] They are definitely suspicious. They would definitely not be enthused by our hugging the Libyans, just as I would not be enthused by it. As for the worshipers' arrival, no one can say anything against that. [end recording]

To sum up, the Israeli-Libyan rapprochement is a religious-humanitarian but definitely not a political matter just now.

Libyans Arrive; Say Visit Not Political

NC3105143993 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 31 May 93

[Report by Sammy Ketz]

[Text] Jerusalem, May 31 (AFP)—Some 200 Libyan pilgrims in white flowing robes arrived Monday [31 May] in Jerusalem at the start of an unprecedented tour of Islamic holy sites in Israel and the occupied territories.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, meanwhile, revealed on state radio that "secret contacts" were underway between Libya and Israel, which are officially in a state of war.

Israeli businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi, who helped arrange the pilgrims' trip, said Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was also expected to visit Israel this year after recognising the Jewish state.

Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am welcomed the 192 pilgrims who crossed from Egypt into the occupied Gaza Strip. Nimrodi, who acted as an intermediary between Israel and Libya, was also on hand.

A delegation of Jews of Libyan origin, who plan a trip to Libya in July, were also present.

"This visit is very important for me. I am happy to be in the holy land to see Islam's religious sites," the pilgrims' leader and electronic engineer Daww Tajari from Tripoli told AFP.

He said the visit was private. "We did not consult the Libyan authorities. We may face problems when we return home," Tajari said, adding that the trip was not political and that no meetings were planned with Israeli officials.

Asked if he thought the trip could be the first step for peace between Israel and Libya, Tajari said: "I don't know. It's a matter for the politicians but it could improve ties between Jews and Muslims." He then led the group to lunch and rest at Jerusalem's Hyatt Hotel.

The Libyan pilgrims are the first from an Arab country to visit Islamic holy sites in East Jerusalem as part of an organised group since Israel annexed the Arab quarter in the 1967 Middle East war. They made the trip because Saudi Arabia had refused to allow them to fly to Mecca, Islam's holiest site, for the annual pilgrimage.

The U.N. Security Council slapped an air embargo and other sanctions on Libya last year because Tripoli failed to hand over two men indicted over the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988 that killed 270 people.

The Libyans were to pray later Monday at East Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock, Islam's third holiest site after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

They will also tour Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho on the West Bank and sites in northern Israel during the five-day visit.

Muslims on Monday celebrate 'Id-al-Adha, the feast of sacrifice ending the annual pilgrimage. Their arrival has angered Palestinian Muslims who have been unable to pray at Al-Aqsa since Israel sealed off the occupied territories at the end of March.

"This is a conspiracy against Jerusalem," said Adnan Husayni, the official in charge of Islamic religious sites on the West Bank.

Nimrodi said the visit was decided during a meeting he had a month ago in Paris with Saudi millionaire Adnan Khashoggi and a secretary to al-Qadhdhafi, capping five years of negotiations.

"We also discussed a visit by al-Qadhdhafi to Israel and he will come before the end of the year." He said a personal adviser to the Libyan leader told him recently that al-Qadhdhafi also planned to make the trip "this year." Al-Qadhdhafi "has understood that the world has changed and that the pilgrims' visit will be positive for his country." The Libyan leader now hopes that Israel will help improve his relations with the United States and the rest of the world, Nimrodi said. "The pilgrims' visit is very important because it is the first step towards de facto recognition of Israel," he added. Libya, like all Arab states except for Egypt, is officially still at war with Israel.

Rabin: Visit Proves Freedom of Worship

TA3105165893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 May 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by unidentified correspondent outside the Knesset on 31 May—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Rabin, does the Libyan pilgrims' arrival signal greater openness on the part of Arab countries at war with Israel?

[Rabin] I cannot go into the Libyan motives, although I do have explanations. In any event, in view of the very fact that they made this approach, we decided to grant their request, and we were right to do so. We have always said that the fact that united Jerusalem is under Israeli sovereignty, that it is the capital of the State of Israel, should not deter members of any other religion from coming here, moving about freely, and fulfilling all their religious needs in Jerusalem in accordance with their concepts and faiths.

I think the very arrival of pilgrims from Libya should signal to the Arab world and to the world in general that Israel adheres to its international commitment to allow free access to and freedom of worship in Jerusalem to every religion differing from the Jewish religion.

[Correspondent] Will al-Qadhdhafi the leader be welcome here?

[Rabin] Any Arab leader who comes will be welcome.

Peres Comments on Visit

TA0106070293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ya'el Dan and Qobi Meydan on 1 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Meydan] Yesterday, we heard two approaches to the visit in Israel by the Libyan pilgrims, or at least this was our impression. Clearly, the Foreign Ministry—under your directive, apparently—played down the visit. On the other hand we heard remarks regarding the historical aspect of the visit. Where do you stand?

[Peres] Look, the odd negotiations with Libya started a year ago, when I was in Paris. I approve of the pilgrims' visit to Israel. Al-Qadhdhafi's intentions are irrelevant. The important thing is the result of this visit. Now that it has taken place, al-Qadhdhafi does not seem to be the same, at least not to the Arab world. I welcome the visit, and I would be very glad if Libya changes its policy. I would be very glad if al-Qadhdhafi joined the peace moves. At the same time, even if he does join the peace process, he would still be the same al-Qadhdhafi.

[Dan] Ya'aqov Nimrodi, one of the sponsors of the visit, said yesterday that al-Qadhdhafi has expressed his desire to visit Israel and, according to Nimrodi, he will arrive during the coming year.

[Peres] Very well. I welcome him. Let him come. We will receive him and let him in.

[Meydan] Do you not fear legitimizing al-Qadhdhafi while the world stands against him?

[Peres] First of all, I have serious doubts regarding the truth of this report. Just like many other stories, this one is also carried on a wave of optimistic sentiment. Nevertheless, even if it does happen, his illegitimacy would still be determined by his previous acts.

[Dan] Your deputy said yesterday that we have no interest in welcoming here the leader of an outcast country, and I am quoting.

[Peres] I did not hear his precise utterance, but I repeat: If Libya quits its hostile policy, and should its leader wish to visit Israel, recognize it, and recognize the peace process—which I doubt, and I would not like to create the impression that this is within reach....

[Dan, interrupting] What do you mean by saying: If it quits the path of terror? Do you mean an official declaration or what?

[Peres] By arriving in Israel, if he comes—and I stress again that I doubt this will happen because it is a bit too far fetched—he would be changing his policy. Incidentally, only last month he delivered a very harsh speech against Israel. He said that Palestine is Palestine and that this is the way it should be, and so on. That is why I am very unmoved by this story. Also, I understand his intentions. There is no doubt that he sent pilgrims to Israel because he wants to make an impression on the United States. Nevertheless, once they came, he no longer appears the same, at least not to the Arabs. That is why I do not intend to unnecessarily issue certificates of legitimacy, and I would not like to create illusions. All I am saying is that a change has taken place because al-Qadhdhafi has gone over the line. He angered the world, and, because the world has imposed economic sanctions on him, he wants to get out of the siege. Our eyes are wide open, and we are not entertaining romantic sentiments here. Still, it may well be that al-Qadhdhafi intended one thing, while the outcome would be absolutely different.

[Dan] Thank you Foreign Minister Peres.

Pilgrims May Be Deported

TA0106103793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The visit here of the Libyan pilgrims, which started off on an optimistic note with references to peace, today turned to a near call for jihad when the head of the delegation said in a news conference he gave a short while ago that Jerusalem should be liberated and made the capital of the Palestinian state. He called on all Muslims to partake in this liberation, and, on the same occasion, he called on Iran to liberate Mecca and Medina from the Saudis.

Let us hear the remarks, as brought by our correspondent Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted with statement in Arabic, followed by an unidentified person translating into English] ...and on this occasion, we call Muslims all over the planet to contribute and to liberating Jerusalem, which ought to be the capital of the Palestinian state. [end recording]

In response, Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am told us several minutes ago that he had ordered his ministry to stop all contacts with the members of this delegation, which only yesterday was very warmly welcomed.

At present, Foreign Ministry officials are holding consultations about how to refer to this episode. Other sources in Jerusalem have said that the possibility of deporting the 192 members of the delegation is also being considered. They came here with much ado yesterday and might be deported in shame today.

Parliamentarians Tour Gaza, Remark on Situation

TA3005114393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 30 May 93

[Excerpts] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today toured the Gaza Strip and Negev settlements that border on the Strip, as well as Gush Qatif and Rafah. After the tour, committee members felt the situation brought on by the closure was not all that bad. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan accompanied the Knesset members [MK's].

[Begin recording] [Qeynan] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members toured IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases and Civil Administration offices in the Gaza Strip. Later, they toured the ruined fence

that is supposed to separate the Strip from the Negev townships. The MK's impressions were summed up by committee chairman Ori Or:

[Or] It is our impression that the situation generated by the closure is better than implied by reports. There is no hunger, and interestingly enough, the Gazans do not even take full advantage of the quotas of workers permitted to take up employment in Israel: Where 16,000 may cross into Israel, only 10,000 to 12,000 actually do. However, we had to inspect the situation firsthand, because reports alone are not enough. As a long-term solution, however, in order to avoid actual hunger, we need to create more and more jobs for the Gazans both inside and outside the Strip. They are evidently not on the verge of hunger.

[Qeynan] Committee member Hagay Merom from Labor spoke of the urgent need to protect Negev townships abutting on the Strip in the framework of the approach advocating autonomy in Gaza first. [passage omitted]

There will be military deployment during and after autonomy, and all the pronouncements about Gaza First are irresponsible, MK Ari'el Sharon said in reaction.

[Sharon] The talk about military presence during autonomy is part of the general sale initiated by the government and of its other irresponsible moves. Military presence in this area should remain forever. This is one of the foundations of autonomy envisaged in the first place, and it bears no similarity to what goes on now—although that autonomy was very dangerous, too. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further Easing of Restrictions Announced

TA3105045193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Israel has further loosened the restrictions of the closure order on the territories. Beginning today, Arab residents of the territories will be permitted to enter Jerusalem and to travel between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but only on buses, not in private cars.

The Army is also reducing the number of roadblocks set up in Judaea and Samaria when the closure was imposed. The move is being taken as an Israeli goodwill gesture to mark the Muslim feast of the sacrifice, 'Id-al-Adha.

Rabin on 'Successful' Closure

TA3105123193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the two months of closure have been successful. The closure has enhanced the Israelis' sense of security, although it has exacerbated the plight of the residents of the territories and put a greater work load on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. The battle against terrorism is the IDF's main task today, the prime minister said as he emerged from today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Prime Minister added that 45,000 territories residents have been issued permits to work inside the Green Line and the government has invested some 200 million shekels in infrastructure in the territories. Under a recent decision, another 30 million shekels will be invested in the coming months, and 20,000 more residents will be employed in projects to improve the standard of living in the territories.

Yitzhaq Rabin added that in the two months of closure, between 15,000 and 17,000 new Israeli Jewish and Arab workers have been hired in the construction industry, and 10,000 to 20,000 more are expected to join them in the coming months, resolving unemployment problems. The prime minister asserted that these new steps will reduce friction between residents of the territories and Israelis and create a smoother atmosphere at the peace talks.

[Also reporting on Rabin's remarks after the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 31 May adds: "In certain areas in the territories, settlers should drive in pairs, not alone, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said." The report adds, "Rabin stressed that the Army cannot be everywhere and the settlers should know they live in a potentially dangerous area."

[On a possible visit to Israel by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the radio quotes Rabin as saying: "Any Arab leader who wishes to come here will be welcome."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 31 May adds that addressing the Knesset committee, "Rabin said that lately, EC members made the first installments on the total of $15 million to be invested in easing the economic plight of residents of the territories. Japan will invest $3 million and the United States will invest $14 million. [figures as heard] A delegation of American experts will arrive in Israel to address this issue, the prime minister said."]

Agrees To Return Another 20 Hamas Deportees

TA3105044493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has announced Israel's agreement to allow 20 more Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to return home. The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington were informed last month of the Israeli agreement.

The government's position was made public after an appeal to the court against the return of the deportees by Tzomet Knesset Member Moshe Peled. The appeal is to be heard on Wednesday [2 June].

Arab Injured as Settlers Riot Following Hebron Murder

TA2805190093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] In reaction to the murder of a Jewish worshiper in Hebron today, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip said that this is apparently an expression of the terrorists' gratitude for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's goodwill gestures.

A group of settlers rioted on the road to Qiryat Arba' and smashed the windshields of Arab cars. An Arab was injured in the head by a stone during the ruckus.

Settlers Clash With IDF

TA3105062493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Violent confrontations took place last night between settlers and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. The IDF closed off the area around the Cave of the Patriarchs and deployed reinforcements in order to prevent the settlers from entering the site.

Arab residents of Hebron reported that the settlers retaliated by rioting in the town, firing shots from their weapons, and causing damage to property.

Settlers in Hebron reported that the Arabs had pelted them with stones they had previously placed on the roofs of the houses. One of the settlers said that the IDF arrested two settlers on suspicion of disturbing the peace.

Netanyahu Calls For More Security

TA0106091993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] This morning, 17 Knesset members [MK] of the right-wing parties toured the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron and the site where serviceman Erez Shmu'el was stabbed to death. During the tour, opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu said that it is unacceptable that Jews cannot visit the Cave of the Patriarchs and be safe. Our correspondent Gil Litman notes that MK Netanyahu demanded that the settlers there be provided with the required security, but also stressed that the law must be observed. Tzomet MK Refa'el Eytan said that the situation should be one in which the Arabs, not the Jews, need to guard their walkways.

Al-Majali Nomination Seen as Commitment to Peace

TA3105085093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 May 93 p 4

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein yesterday welcomed the appointment of 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali as new Jordanian prime minister. Rubinstein described him as "a Jordanian patriot with a deep commitment to peace." Over the past 19 months, Rubinstein, chairman of the Israeli delegation for the bilateral negotiations with the Jordanians and Palestinians, has held negotiations with al-Majali in his capacity as head of the Jordanian delegation. "Working with him has always been a pleasure. It is true that we have had differences. He is a Jordanian patriot in the full meaning of the word, but he is deeply committed to peace, and the dialogue with him has always been civilized and honest," Rubinstein said.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem have welcomed the appointment and said that it represents King Husayn's deep commitment to the success of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Submits Resignation to King

JN2905101193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 May 93

["Text" of letter of resignation submitted by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to King Husayn on 29 May—read by announcer]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, may God preserve him. Sir, I send you greetings of love, allegiance, and pride. I am honored to send you my sincere sentiments of affection, coupled with my prayers that God will grant you success, protect you, and affirm your footsteps on the good path.

I have been honored to be close to you since we first began our years in life. All these years, I have been very close to Husayn the human being, supporting Husayn the leader and admiring the creative Husayn, who combines ancient history with modernization.

The 40-year journey has not been easy or simple in its turning points, but it has always been pleasant, full of love for our people and progress for the country and characterized by unique prestige for the country and the people among the nations of the world.

I have gone on this journey as one of Husayn's soldier, both when I served in our Arab army and when I contributed to building the nation while serving in other positions. I have always had the honor of following your example and walking on your path. If I realized some of your expectations, these were only the fruits of the trees you planted.

Sir, you have honored me and my ministers with shouldering responsibilities within the scope of your kind instructions and to exert further efforts to build the new society that you have desired, a society whose children can enjoy freedom of thought and expression within political multiplicity, who can enjoy safety and security under the supremacy of the law, and who will be given the opportunity to build their cultural, economic, and social institutions in a spirit of trust, credibility, and cooperation, proving their presence in the changing world that is being formed around them.

God be praised, we have managed to achieve some of what you have planned. It is a favor from God that He has bestowed upon this country your victorious leadership and provided Jordanians with the faith, the knowledge, and the will to stand loftily in the face of various hardships and challenges in the past stage.

During the past year and the first months of this year, the government, fully supported by Your Majesty, constantly cooperated with the legislative authority to take the required constitutional measures to fulfill the requirements of a democratic society. During that period, the martial regulations and Defense Law of 1935 were repealed, and the political parties began their activities after the Political Parties Law was approved. The Press and Publications Law was also issued at a time when actual freedom of the press was enjoyed. The judiciary was given every means of support to continue its task of protecting citizens' constitutional rights. The royal committee entrusted with studying the establishment of a center for freedom, democracy, and human rights in the Arab homeland embarked on its work resolutely and attentively. Meanwhile, Amman has become a cultural center thanks to the various intellectual and literary meetings that were encouraged and fully supported by the government.

In the economic sector, God be praised, we have managed to bypass the results and repercussions of the Gulf crisis. The development process continued, and an actual increase in the income rate was achieved after gross national production for 1992 increased by 11 percent. Also, with the private sector regaining full confidence in the national economy, substantial investment momentum has been achieved. This has been accompanied by stability in the dinar exchange rate and the building of a satisfactory reserve of foreign currency in the Kingdom. Fortunately, my lord, economic activity during the first quarter of this year achieved a pattern similar to that achieved in 1992. Thus, the government's local revenues during the same period exceeded the rate estimated in the state budget for this year. This budget stands out as the first in the history of the Kingdom in which estimated local revenues cover all current expenditures, which constitute the treasury's consumer's expenditure. In addition, the budget contributes to financing approximately 50 percent of the government's capital formation. Thus, we have begun to reap the first fruits of self-reliance, both economically and financially, albeit with some hardship for all citizens in the homeland. However, this is the true path to liberation. This generation must follow this path if it wishes to assume the historic responsibility in its own interest and in the interest of the coming generations, with all that is required in this regard in terms of national plans, accurate methodology, and noble patience.

During the first quarter of this year, the government also managed to achieve further reduction in the volume of foreign debt. In this respect, the balance of withdrawn and unpaid loans since 1991 has been reduced by approximately $800 million. There has also been stability and a gradual decrease in prices, producing a 1992 inflation rate of not more than 4 percent.

The government has been eager to accompany the building of the bases of economic security with progress in the field of social peace and security. This has been done through serious efforts to tackle issues of poverty and to curb the unemployment phenomenon. This has taken place in a systematic, institutionalized manner. The government has provided every means of support for the Development and Employment Fund after its law was approved. The government also expanded the umbrella of care and support provided by the National Aid Fund. At the same time, the government stressed the need to distribute the gains of economic development

among all sectors of society and throughout the kingdom in a fair and organized manner.

The government has done its best to improve administrative performance and preserve public funds. It issued new regulations and edicts for the office of legislation, set up an office for administrative supervision and inspection, and established a national center for information. The government also prepared a national plan of administrative training that will contribute to laying down the infrastructure of comprehensive administrative development.

Your Majesty: The government has been eager to adhere to the foreign policy principles whose bases were laid down by your majesty. Within this context, the government has made serious efforts to return the Arab situation to the point of balance and cooperation. It also continued to extend every assistance to the Palestinian people, whose chaste land is witnessing a brave intifadah standing in the face of Zionist settlements and expansion. The Palestinian people's representatives in the peace process, led by the PLO, in cooperation with the Jordanian and other Arab delegations, are waging a conflict with Israel in order to regain the right and liberate the land.

On Your Majesty's instructions, the government expanded its contacts with the Islamic states that emerged in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse. It did its best to alleviate the suffering of the Muslim Bosnian people who are defending their entity and existence against a fierce racist onslaught. The government also continued its political, economic, and cultural contacts with all world states. These intensive contacts led to further understanding of our political positions and support for our economic and social programs. They also consolidated Jordan's relations with these states based on mutual respect, confidence, and safeguarding our country's supreme national interests.

Our brave Armed Forces have received all kinds of support and much appreciation stemming from our gratitude for their distinguished role in the community, and from pride in their bright image, their ability to carry out their duties and accomplish their missions, and their shouldering of responsibility with efficiency and capability inside the homeland and in remote world places where they are maintaining international peace and security. The government also supported the security organs, so they can carry out their duties to safeguard the homeland's security, safety, and stability under the supremacy of law.

Your Majesty: I, along with my colleague ministers, shouldered the honorable responsibilty which you bestowed on us, and we did our best in this crucial phase. Now, after we have taken a stride in achieving the program you outlined in your letter of designation, and with the start of a new phase in the homeland's life, I, along with my colleagues, feel that we should give an opportunity to a new team of the homeland's sons to play its role in shouldering the responsibility. I am honored to submit to your exalted office my government's resignation, hoping that you will kindly issue a royal decree accepting it. I take this opportunity to extend, in my name and on behalf of my colleague, our profound thanks and gratitude for supporting all of us and for your encouragement and care. We will all remain faithful soldiers who support the march, join the effort, and work to uphold the homeland under your majesty's victorious Hashemite leadership. May God grant you success and protect you.

[Signed] Yours sincerely, Zayd Bin-Shakir

[Dated] Amman, 29 May 1993

King Accepts Resignation

JN2905112393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 May 93

["Text" of a letter from King Husayn accepting the resignation of the government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on 29 May—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, may God protect him. I send my Arab and Hashemite greetings of love, absolute trust, and appreciation to a dear brother with whom I have shared the journey from the beginning of our life, in extension of the march of 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn and Shakir Bin-Zayd, the march of our fathers and forefathers, which was replete with generous sacrifices.

You have always been a man for difficult tasks in all the positions in which we placed you over the past 40 years, through which we shouldered, along with our beloved Jordanian Arab people, the trust of building this Arab fortress, the bearer of the message of the Great Arab Revolt and the burial ground of our martyrs—the great Hashemite martyrs; the companions of the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, between Mu'tah and al-Yarmuk; and the martyrs of this country's genuine Arabs who fell in the battle of al-Karamah and under the walls of the immortal city of Jerusalem.

You and your colleagues have shouldered the responsibility at a critical phase of the life of this dear homeland and carried it out in the best way possible, succeeding with God's help in achieving what you had been tasked with achieving in our letter of designation to your government. Prominent among these achievements is the legislation pertaining to the phase of political multiplicity and to freedom of the press and publications, the canceling of martial law, your achievements in the field of economic and financial adaptation to the critical circumstances the nation had faced, your achievements in the various aspects of life that are connected with the citizen's basic needs, and your efforts in the field of the cherished comprehensive peace process that can be accepted and protected by the generations and in matters pertaining to the growing ties of Jordan with sisterly and friendly states based on cooperation and mutual respect.

You have shouldered the trust with sincerity, honesty, and integrity. You have carried out this trust and have enjoyed the approval of our beloved Jordanian people. We thank you and your colleagues and wish you well. And since your are now preferring to make room for another colleague to continue the march along with a number of this country's selected sons in these circumstances, which requires this by their very nature, I accept the resignation of your government. I pray the Almighty God to preserve you as a brother, a backer, and a companion. I pray God to grant us success on his path. God is all-hearing and will respond to our prayers.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn

[Dated] Amman, 29 May 1993

Al-Majali Named Prime Minister

JN2905060993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 May 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has asked 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of Jordan's delegation to bilateral peace talks with Israel, to form a government to succeed the Cabinet of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and the transition in the executive authority is expected to be formalised Saturday, informed sources said Friday.

"His Majesty has mandated Dr. al-Majali to head the next government, and the formal announcement is expected to be made today (Saturday)," one source told the JORDAN TIMES, ending weeks of speculation and rumours over who would head the next Cabinet.

Dr. al-Majali, 67, was expected to present a list of his Cabinet to the King for approval Saturday, and the formal swearing-in ceremony was scheduled shortly thereafter.

The main mandate of the new government is to supervise the next general elections, expected to be held later this year, and maintain the Middle East peace launched 19 months ago.

Dr. al-Majali's departure from the delegation is not expected to have any bearing on Jordan's stand in the peace process. Jordan's ambassador to the U.S., Fayiz al-Tarawinah, is likely to be named as the premier-designate's successor as head of the Kingdom's delegation to the talks.

The composition of Dr. al-Majali's Cabinet was not immediately known, but some of the members of the al-Sharif Zayd government are likely to be retained, the sources said, noting that at least 11 members of the present Cabinet are expected to run in the elections.

Under Jordan's Electon Law, serving government officials have to resign their jobs before they could file their nomination as candidates in the polls. Ten members of the 26-man Cabinet of al-Sharif Zayd are also members of the Lower House of Parliament, and all of them, except one, are expected to seek reelection.

Some of the people tipped to be included in Dr. al-Majali's Cabinet were non-committal Friday when contacted by the JORDAN TIMES. They would not deny or confirm their expected appointment.

Eyewitnesses reported heavy security surrounding Dr. al-Majali's residence near the Fifth Circle and that many officials and personalities were seen visiting the premier-designate.

The confirmation that Dr. al-Majali was given the mandate to form the next Cabinet came after weeks of speculation in official circles and the media as to whether al-Sharif Zayd was staying on after carrying out a cabinet reshuffle or it would be a new prime minister altogether.

Apart from Dr. al-Majali, other names mentioned as possible successor to al-Sharif Zayd had included Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki and Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi.

Al-Sharif Zayd, who took office as prime minister in June 1989, is credited with overseeing Jordan's first general elections in 22 years in November 1989. He resigned after the polls. His successor was Mudar Badran, who led the government until June 1991, when Tahir al- Masri was named premier.

Mr. al-Masri, a member of the Lower House of Parliament elected in November 1989, was forced to resign as prime minister three months later when he faced stiff opposition from Parliament.

Al-Sharif Zayd was recalled by the King in October 1991 to form a new government again in a caretaker capacity until the next elections, but the carrier military officer and former commander-in- chief of the Armed Forces wanted some rest and hence the latest change in the executive authority, the sources said.

Dr. al-Majali is a medical doctor who has served several past cabinets, headed the University of Jordan and was special advisor to King Husayn before his appointment as head of Jordan's delegation to the peace talks.

Dr. al-Majali is well-known for his moderate approach to the Arab- Israeli conflict and a staunch advocate of a settlement based on land in exchange for peace.

King's Letter of Designation to al-Majali

JN2905154893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 May 93

["Text" of letter of designation sent by King Husayn to new Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali on 29 May]

[Text] Dear Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, our brother, may God watch over you:

I would like to extend to you a Hashemite, Arab greeting, and to tell you that you have my absolute confidence and great appreciation, and that I am pinning great hopes on you.

I have known you throughout my career in the service of the beloved homeland and the glorious Arab nation to be a man of thought, action, and dedication. You have been sincere, honest, and truthful. I have also known you to be one of the sons of the homeland in the Arab army. We have both sought to promote the welfare of mankind. Hence the launching of our blessed march on solid foundations. This march proceeded in steady steps through the Royal Medical Services, which nurtured a distinguished group of the homeland's youth, opening up to them new prospects for knowledge, scientific achievements, and dedication in the various fields and specialties which many had doubted would succeed.

You then laid the foundations to establish the al-Husayn Medical Center, as well as other medical installations and institutions. The fruits of all these efforts are now being reaped by the people of this homeland. Of the elite which we have supported since the very beginning, some are still working with the Royal Medical Services; others have joined other institutions in the homeland. This elite now constitutes the principal foundation of medicine in our dear homeland and one facet of its creativity in the region and world.

We are also thankful for your efforts at the University of Jordan, which were a continuation of all that you have done and a great contribution toward care for the youth, our hope for the future.

When various developments occurred, the suffering of our kinsmen in the occupied Palestinian territories increased, and the question of peace was brought up under very difficult circumstances for all of us—Palestinians, Jordanians, and Arabs—in our greater Arab homeland, we called a broad Jordanian conference and presented the alternatives to figures representing all segments of the homeland. Then, in a comprehensive national gathering, we chose to proceed on the road to a just, comprehensive peace which future generations can accept and protect. The peace we want is one which returns to the Palestinian Arab people their legitimate rights on their national soil, and which returns to the Arabs and Muslims their rights in holy Jerusalem, the destination of Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey, the cradle of Christ, and the shrine of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, the father of the modern Arab revolution. The blood of 'Abdallah, son of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali and founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, was also shed on the pure soil of Jerusalem, just like the blood of the sons of the homeland was shed on the land of Palestine. We had then to choose someone we fully trust to lead the national delegation at the beginning of the peace journey. We chose you for the difficult mission without any hesitation. Once again, you have not failed to meet our expectations and have succeeded in your mission. We will always appreciate what you have done.

We are currently having to deal with delicate circumstances, in which, God willing and thanks to the awareness of our one big Jordanian family, the democratization process, which we have chosen, and the shura [consultation process], which we have espoused as a way of life, are taking root. We have been pleased by bestowing this on all Jordanians of all origins and ancestral lineage. It was not imposed on us by anybody. It fell in harmony with what has been strongly embedded within our minds, hearts, and consciences. Hence, we offered it when this was possible. We pursued it under the harshest and most difficult circumstances, because we have faith in God, in human rights, in sound approaches, and in the need to involve all individuals and parties in shouldering the responsibilities of establishing a model homeland.

When the Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter was established, all intellectual schools of thought and political trends were represented in it. Thus, this commission managed to formulate the charter through responsible dialogue and unmistakable sincerity. All parties espoused the charter, given that it respects the Constitution and charts the landmarks of the course to be pursued by the one march, which is serious and purposeful, including political pluralism, the issue of equal opportunity, and keeping the Arab army, as well as the Jordanian Armed Forces and their organs, away from any political or partisan interference so that they may remain a shield for the march and the homeland, as well as for the great aspirations we seek to realize.

Then, we moved to the issue of human rights and underscored the need to safeguard them, because undermining them is a disease that must be diagnosed and remedied by granting the Arab citizen his rights and safeguarding his dignity and humanity, as well as his value and distinction among Almighty God's creatures. Such respect for human rights must be true and real, not a reflection of delusions or fantasies. By so doing, we have been acting upon the injunctions of Almighty God, as manifested in the following Koranic verse: We have honored the sons of Adam; provided them with transport on land and sea and also in the following saying of the Arab prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him: You are all guardians, and each of you is responsible for his own subordinates.

While working to build for future generations, we seek only God's satisfaction and an easy conscience. We also want the judgment of future generations to be in our favor, not against us, God willing. We are not engaged in a war of bidding against any brothers. However, given the international upheaval we are experiencing, we are acting upon our convictions and offering options for those who might choose to espouse them. The agonies we, as Jordanians of various origins and ancestral lineages, have gone through, might not have not been experienced by any other peoples. In the midst of challenges and dangers, whenever a plight befell our nation,

we always had the lion's share in bearing its consequences and burdens. God be praised for what he ordains.

Our faith in God as well as our pan-Arab and national commitment have remained our basic asset. We have always been and will remain the closest, among all Arabs, to Palestine's kinfolk, territory, and rights. Our weapon in this endeavor is our growing awareness, as well as those individuals who have been sharpened by ordeals and experiences, who do not bow to anyone except Almighty God.

We have lived four years of our new life under the democracy we are forging and the future we are building. The ordinary term of parliament has been concluded. This ushers in preparations for new parliamentary elections. Now that the government of His Excellency brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, which is worthy of all commendation for the endeavors it has made and the services it has rendered under delicate circumstances, has resigned; as I am custodian of the three authorities which I oversee; and proceeding from the trust of all kinfolk, members of our big and one family, I entrust you with the task of heading the government, the government of this new phase, which will oversee parliamentary elections for the new House of Representatives.

As I entrust you and the new government with this great national task, I am sure that you will be eager, as I am, to make the upcoming Council of Ministers for the homeland first and for the members of the one big family without discrimination; that you will also be very eager to take all possible, appropriate, and necessary measures to hold elections in line with the Constitution, which guarantees full equality in terms of rights and duties for all members of this family—men and women—and to enable everyone to exercise his rights in electing the upcoming House of Representatives in the purest, easiest, most comprehensive, and fair elections, reminding all voters of their responsibilities toward their homeland and nation; and that the votes they cast should be given to the best candidate, whose purpose is to serve the homeland.

The phase which we have experienced over the past four years was rich, and we thank God for his gifts. During that period, positive elements greatly exceeded negative ones. We also thank the House of Representatives and the government for their efforts and sacrifices, and we look forward to more positive elements and fewer negative ones. Above all this, we should live in a state which upholds the order of law that applies to everyone, and we should secure a full balance between the executive, legislative, and judiciary authorities and prevent any of them from overwhelming the other, especially as we want a dynamic, developed, clean, active, and qualified executive authority to deal with the homeland's matters and needs. We also want an organ in which the most qualified sons of the homeland are mobilized, not an organ paralyzed by nepotism and overburdened or paralyzed by ruinous bureaucracy and by fear of shouldering responsibility.

Therefore, I would like to emphasize to everyone that we expect your government to move, along with the members of the big family, toward work and real construction in all areas. There is no room for stagnation in this phase. The current circumstances cannot bear that because the challenges are numerous. It is not sufficient to be content with what we have achieved or are achieving, because our ambitions should always be very broad, hopeful, and noble. I would also like to point out that regarding the democracy and way of life we have chosen, I fear that some people, claiming to believe in them as a method and a way of life while harboring plans to harm them, will penetrate our ranks and undermine them from inside. I also fear for them, with regard to those who fear and do not understand them. Our success will mean much hope for the future of this one big family of the various origins in the homeland of free people, to which the best sons of our great homeland flock and to whose success hopes are attached. If we fail, God forbid, our failure will not only undermine the legend of our steadfastness in terms of right, principles, and good that Jordan has recorded through its steadfastness in the sacred part of the great homeland—a sacred part whose Arabism has been entrenched and which was protected from all danger and challenges by brave men—but will also mean a setback and a severe blow to all the hopes that it shapes in its behavior and struggle within a circle that is much larger than its size on the Arab and Islamic levels, and even beyond.

On the pan-Arab level, we have always been part of and have supported our nation. We support anything that would strengthen its national fabric and establish ties based on mutual respect and trust. We also support the endeavor to reach integration within our nation and resolve all of its internal problems within the framework of its regional organizations, as well as the endeavor to remove all reasons for the estrangement, fragmentation, and alienation it faces and alleviate the suffering faced by many of its people.

We support the return of brotherly, frank dialogue among the nation's various sectors and support the reorganization of their ties on more solid and stronger bases. As the world heads in that direction, our nation cannot possibly remain captive to its suffering, divided by walls of estrangement, fear, and suspicion. We support every sincere effort leading to a new Arab dawn in which the Arab individual can regain his confidence and a feeling of his own dignity and humanity so that the entire nation can assume the place it deserves among people and nations. Only then can our nation have confidence in itself and in its ability to face all challenges and threats. I have absolute faith that after God Almighty, what remains is the Arab people throughout their great homeland. I beseech God to guide us and other Arab leaders to understand this fact all the time on

the path of the nation's well-being and glory, and to attempt to heal its wounds and stop its bleeding and suffering.

As for the Palestinian Arab people and their rights on their national soil and the issue of Arab-Israeli peace, we support a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace that can be accepted and protected by future generations; peace among the children of Abraham, God's blessings be upon him, which will benefit all and which will replace the eternal suffering faced by all brothers in the occupied territories and us, their neighbors in the Arab world. We can see no alternative to the quest to achieve that peace. Nor can we escape our responsibilities toward the people of Palestine, because their cause is just and strong and is worth the effort to raise and defend it and explain its dimensions. If the efforts succeed in achieving a just and comprehensive peace which can be accepted and defended by future generation—regardless of the immediate balance of powers—this would be the greatest achievement in the future of this region and its stability, and would provide the opportunity for a comprehensive Arab breakthrough to develop the nation's resources in the direction of its glory, pride, and power. Therefore we will, God willing, continue to work to achieve that comprehensive and complete peace—not a separate or incomplete peace—wishing, in the meantime, that attempts by its enemies, wherever they may be, would fail to torpedo its opportunities and push everyone into a dreadful, deep abyss.

As for domestic policy, the government must draw up plans to implement the national policies that have been agreed upon, including those achieved through the National Charter and legislation, plans, and programs already completed in various fields. One does not have to start from the very beginning and overlook what has been partially achieved or drawn by colleagues who had previously assumed responsibility and fulfilled their duties with efficiency.

The issue of human rights and the protection of the individual's dignity, as well as giving care to him—in terms of education, culture, health, environment, and training—must be given top priority.

This is the image Jordan has maintained since the beginning, when our forefathers began as teachers, farmers, and soldiers reading, harvesting, and fighting for a homeland radiant with education, perseverance, and bounty. They have succeeded in their endeavor and achieved things, in which we take pride and teach to our children, through the 70 years of Jordan's pan-Arab, wise experience which was never distant from the feelings of freedom, democracy, and pluralism, except in certain cases when circumstances dictated that one priority is temporarily set aside to give way to another issue of higher national priority.

In this regard, I insist that Jordan must maintain an unblemished picture for its citizens, for the children of its Arab and Muslim nations, for its friends, even for its foes, who must understand that our pride cannot be infringed upon, that every grain of our soil is sacred, and that no tree will bow or be uprooted.

Jordan's image needs a comprehensively sober media to reflect it. This requires the upgrading of media leaders and experts and the introduction of a new generation of experts and techniques. It also requires a press that can defend the homeland; support right, freedom, and justice everywhere; and fulfill its role in a rational, sober manner, away from one-upmanship, personal gains, and half-truths.

The institution of Jordanian diplomacy, which provides a stainless mirror for Jordan's image abroad, requires from you an examination of its administrative and financial conditions, as well as support to enable it to fulfill its role.

The same attention should be given to institutions in education, higher education, culture, awqaf, and Islamic and youth affairs, given that they are institutions dealing with education and guidance which assume responsibility for bringing up a Jordanian Arab citizen who is capable of tackling the requirements of this century with logic and knowledge and not with ignorance and superstition, who is far from bigotry, isolationism, sectarianism, and regionalism, and who will uphold the nation's values in terms of human awareness and tolerance. If we succeed in clarifying these values to the world, we can contribute to remedying the backwardness, ignorance, and repression which exist in many parts of this world.

If assigning leading positions at the various echelons to outstanding people is something essential, then the confrontation of routine and bureaucracy needs the same attention, on the condition that this be coupled with a reformulation of work ethics, the redistribution of responsibilities, and the continuation of training, as well as the enhancement of positive values that lead to stability and peace. The soldier, worker, employee, teacher, and farmer are good tributaries whose offerings flow into the river of the great homeland.

While we affirm that we are entering the stage of comprehensive preparation to consolidate the bases of the resurgence we experience and to proceed with it to more spacious vistas, we should emphasize the role of our great Arab army in protecting the homeland, pan-Arab security, and the peace in turbulent areas of this world. We are committed to continue supporting this army, providing it with weapons, and training its members with the best that science and technology can offer so that it may remain, with God's help, the army of the nation, the upholder of the banner of its revolution, and the one that will fulfill its hopes, backed in this by a cohesive domestic front whose security will be guarded by the public security organs, which should be allotted the same attention as that given to our heroic Armed Forces.

Since agriculture, industry, trade, tourism, energy, and mineral resources are an integral part of this resurgence,

then it is imperative to solve the obstacles and obstructions that face them and have them proceed on new bases to support our national economy. This will allow comprehensive development to touch every location in our beloved Jordan in a manner that will help end unemployment and the pockets of poverty, taking into consideration that our free economy has overcome the setback it sustained and is regaining its vitality following the many crises it faced with the Gulf crisis and its momentous results, representing the most harmful crisis Jordan and the entire nation has suffered.

The private sector has played a role of which it can be proud in overcoming this setback. This constitutes an incentive to secure more opportunities for it to grow, develop, and participate in the stage of economic growth and comprehensive development in all the areas of this homeland.

Many beacons of university education have been established in Jordan with Al-al-Bayt University being the most cherished one in spite of its being the most recently established. The government should support this university, just as it supported its sister universities earlier, so that it may uphold the contemporary Islamic message in the manner we defined for it. The study center for freedom, democracy, and human rights in the Arab homeland should also be supported. We have ordered its establishment so that it may be a turning point in the Arab political approach and so that it may spread its message and assume its role.

In this regard, we stress the need to reassess the march of Mu'tah University to provide for each wing [the military and civilian wings] the conditions necessary to enable it to perform its duties as well as possible, especially since we have instructed that greater care be given to the [Armed Forces] Military Education Directorate schools to supply that university with an elite group of students, who, after graduating from the university, can become soldiers with a message and brave fighters in our great Arab army.

There are also a number of major national projects that require immediate attention to see them completed, particularly environmental protection, the Green Jordan Project, new hospitals, the National Library, the restructuring of Royal Jordanian Airlines, and oil prospecting.

We are entering a new Jordanian Arab era of democracy. We are all sharing in the establishment of that era on the basis of right, freedom, and human dignity, and are building its institutions through law, leaving no corner in which corruption can grow or which devastation can permeate. For such a restructuring, we have prepared a support for right; tolerance but with decisiveness; a foreign policy based on mutual respect, cooperation, and noninterference in the domestic affairs of others; and a readiness to repel any attempt by any covetous party seeking to harm us or interfere in our affairs. We abide by human rights and international charters, which we hope the United Nations will translate into reality by way of a dramatic change in its structure. We hope the United Nations will become a humanitarian organization that reflects the current reality of the world and the need of peoples and nations for security, justice, and peace; and not remain as it is now, representing an old order the foundations of which were destroyed years ago.

Here I stress the need to establish new ties with the states created by world developments, particularly the Islamic states that became independent following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

As I stress the need to comply with all that has been mentioned here, as well as the need to implement and translate it into political, economic, cultural, and social reality, which the citizen can feel and to which he can contribute his expertise, ideas, and advise, I wish you and your colleagues success in your endeavor. I also wish that your efforts will be crowned with success, that democracy will be entrenched, and that the Jordanian Arab individual will receive his basic needs in education, food, and security so that he can assume the responsibility of advancing his own country, Jordan, and share in the advancement of his glorious nation.

I am waiting to hear from you the names of your esteemed colleagues who will help you shoulder these national and pan-Arab responsibilities.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn Bin-Talal

[Dated] Amman, 8 Dhi a-Hijjah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 29 May 1993

Al-Majali Replies

JN2905170093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1535 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has sent a reply to His Majesty King Husayn's letter of designation. In the letter, al-Majali affirmed that he and his colleagues will assume the responsibilities assigned them. He added that His Majesty King Husayn's instructions, wisdom, and sound views would be the best guide for them in their mission.

Addressing his majesty the king, he added: You have established solid foundations for our national march. Democracy, which your majesty has been seeking, is now a way of life for the sons of the homeland and will remain so for future generations. Democracy is only a small part of what Your Majesty has given your people. You have lit a torch at a difficult time to illuminate the path of our national march. You have also led your people through tough times into a time which heralds respect for man's dignity and freedom.

Dr. al-Majali added that his government will see to the holding of elections in a completely fair atmosphere, making sure that everybody will participate, without discrimination.

Dr. al-Majali asserted that the government will follow the pan-Arab approach charted by his majesty the king, thus translating the king's concern to restore confidence, mutual respect, and close cooperation among Arab brothers.

Swearing-In Ceremony Held

JN2905152893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1425 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] A royal decree has been issued on the formation of the new government. The decree reads as follows:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, following the resignation of His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and after taking cognizance of Article 35 of the Constitution order the following:

1. His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali shall be appointed prime minister, as well as minister of foreign affairs and defense. Upon the recommendation of the referent prime minister, the following appointments shall be made:

A. His Excellency Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar shall be appointed minister of information.

B. His Excellency Dr. Jawad al-'Anani shall be appointed minister of state for cabinet affairs.

C. His Excellency Walid 'Asfur shall be appointed minister of energy and mineral resources.

D. His Excellency Dr. 'Abdallah 'Uwaydat shall be appointed minister of youth.

E. His Excellency Yanal Hikmat shall be appointed minister of tourism and antiquities.

F. His Excellency Ratib al-Wazani shall be appointed minister of justice.

G. His Excellency Dr. Ziyad Fariz shall be appointed minister of planning.

H. His Excellency Dr. Bassam al-Sakit shall be appointed minister of industry and trade.

I. His Excellency Dr. Mahmud al-Samrah shall be appointed minister of culture.

J. His Excellency Ahmad al-'Aqayilah shall be appointed minister of state.

K. His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi shall be appointed minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs.

L. His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Mahdi al-Farhan shall be appointed minister of municipal, rural affairs, and environment.

M. His Excellency Bassam Qaqish shall be appointed minister of water and irrigation.

N. His Excellency Sami Qammuh shall be appointed minister of finance.

O. His Excellency Salamah Hammad shall be appointed minister of interior.

P. His Excellency Dr. Muhammad al-Suqur shall be appointed minister of social development.

Q. His Excellency Khalaf al-Hawwari shall be appointed minister of public works and housing.

R. His Excellency Salman al-Tarawinah shall be appointed minister of transport.

S. His Excellency Radi Ibrahim shall be appointed minister of supply.

T. His Excellency Khalid al-Ghizawi shall be appointed minister of labor.

U. His Excellency Talal Sat'an al-Hasan shall be appointed minister of state for foreign affairs.

V. His Excellency Dr. Marwan Kamal shall be appointed minister of agriculture.

W. His Excellency Dr. Tariq al-Suhaymat shall be appointed minister of communications.

X. His Excellency Dr. 'Abd al-Rahim Malhas shall be appointed minister of health.

Y. His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-Zu'bi shall be appointed minister of state for legal affairs.

Z. His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-'Umari shall be appointed minister of education and minister of higher education.

Issued at our Basman Palace in Amman on 8 Dhi al-Hijjah, 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 29 May 1993

His excellency the prime minister and the ministers took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Court; His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, the chief chamberlain; Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mir'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Lieutenant General Mustafa al-Qaysi, director of the General Intelligence Department; Major General 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Adwan, director of the Public Security Department; Major General Hamid al-Fayiz, commander of Al-Husayn Bin-'Ali Brigade; and His Excellency al-Sharif Fawwaz Zabin 'Abdallah, his majesty's adviser for tribal affairs.

New Cabinet Holds First Meeting

JN3005120293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The new government of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has held its first meeting to discuss His Majesty King Husayn's letter of designation. The council reviewed the reply of Dr. al-Majali to the royal letter of designation. The cabinet stressed commitment to the main guidelines contained in the king's letter. Premier al-Majali underlined the importance of joint efforts for the sake of the nation's interests. The government approved a number of procedures relating to the council's internal affairs and future work plan.

Al-Tamimi Appointed King's Islamic Affairs Adviser

JN2905121593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpt] A royal decree has been issued appointing His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi [former minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs] as His Majesty King Husayn's adviser for Islamic affairs as of today. [passage omitted]

Militants Said Training in Afghanistan To Confront Regime

NC3005054793 Paris AFP in English 0231 GMT 30 May 93

[Report by Randa Habib]

[Text] Amman, May 30 (AFP)—Muslim militants trained in guerrilla warfare in Afghanistan are preparing to set Jordan ablaze if it signs a peace treaty with Israel and to promote fundamentalism, some of them have said.

A government official told AFP the militants were among a 300-strong force of Jordanians who recently returned to the country from Afghanistan, sparking fears among the authorities for stability in the Kingdom.

In separate interviews with AFP three of these militants, who only gave their first names because of what they said were "fears of reprisals," said their mission was to promote holy war in Jordan and seek followers.

"We are ready for any confrontation with the regime because of our beliefs," said 27-year-old militant Zaki. He underwent four training sessions in Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan, at the Muslim Brotherhood's Salah al-Din camp.

"If Jordan signs a peace treaty with Israel we will put the Kingdom to fire and sword," warned Rif'at, 29. He was trained by al-Qa'ida, a secret organisation in Afghanistan that is financed by a wealthy Saudi businessman who owns a construction firm in Jeddah, Usamah Bin-Ladin.

"Members of al-Qa'ida pledge total allegiance to the group and undergo military training more sophisticated than anywhere else in Afghanistan and tailored to their countries of origin," Rif'at said.

They learn to impose "by force if necessary shari'ah (Islamic law)."

"Some privileged members are also trained to launch anti-air Stinger missiles," Rif'at added.

The third militant, Tawfiq, said he was a member of Afghan Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] movement.

"We will intervene in Jordan when the time is ripe, as it is currently in Egypt," he said in reference to a year-old campaign by Muslim fundamentalists to overthrow the secular government of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

In July 1991, Jordanian authorities dismantled a network of Muslim fundamentalists whose members had also been trained in Afghanistan.

Six leaders of The Army of Muhammad were accused of terrorist attacks in Jordan and sentenced to death. The sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment and in October they were released from jail under a general amnesty.

Zaki, Rif'at and Tawfiq said that on their return from Afghanistan they had been interrogated daily for two weeks by Jordanian intelligence officers.

"The policemen told me 'We're aware of what you were doing in Afghanistan and we want to know if you and your friends plan on meddling in internal affairs and set up an organisation in Jordan,'" Zaki said.

A Jordanian Government official confirmed that the militants were being interrogated by the security services.

"The law authorises interrogations and the arrest of any Jordanian who took part in the creation of armed groups without obtaining prior permission from the authorities," the official said.

"Only one Jordanian from Afghanistan is currently in jail," he said, adding that the detention of suspects is usually brief.

Zaki, Rif'at and Tawfiq said they maintained "regular contact" with Afghan veterans in Jordan to exchange information, views and read fundamentalist pamphlets published in Afghanistan.

One publication, SADA AL-JIHAD (Echo of Holy War), called for donations to be sent to a numbered bank account in Peshawar.

Buwayz Urges Serious Preparations Before New Talks

NC2905072993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has noted that the ninth round of negotiations did not live up to expectations. In a press statement, Buwayz said that serious preparations must precede any talk about a 10th round. He added: That which the ninth round of talks failed to achieve in public must be the focus of contacts behind the scenes to ensure a minimum level of clear guarantees. Otherwise, the decision to take part in the 10th round will be difficult, he said.

Blaming the United States and Israel for what has happened, Buwayz said Washington should not confine its role to technical and logistical issues, but must get involved in the substance of the talks. The United States has not done so. We believe the role of the U.S. mediator must go beyond these boundaries and get into the details of the subjects under discussion, he added.

Buwayz said he attaches importance to the Amman meeting, adding that if it is held without important developments or if there are no reasons that give rise to hope, it will be very difficult to decide to participate in new rounds.

Buwayz Returns From Talks in Damascus

NC2905175593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz held talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus today. The talks revolved around the peace process.

We have just learned that Minister Buwayz returned from Damascus this evening.

Amal Says Israel Blocking Red Cross on Prisoner Release

NC2805170193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Amal Movement has accused Israel of impeding the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to release the Lebanese detainees.

Following the ICRC coroners examination of two bodies the Amal Movement is holding, an Israeli military spokesman said yesterday that the bodies are not those of any of the Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

An Amal spokesman said this statement means Israel does not want to release the Lebanese it is detaining in return for the two bodies and that Israel thus is undermining the ICRC's efforts.

The ICRC has declined to reveal the results of its examination, saying that they have been conveyed to Israel.

Four Detainees Released From al-Khiyam Prison

NC3005135193 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent has reported that four detainees were released from al-Khiyam prison this afternoon. They are Rida 'Ali Ahmad al-Dawi from 'Aytarun, 'Ali Husayn Muhammad Qasim from 'Ayta al-Sha'b, Muhammad Ibrahim 'Ali al-Dawi from al-Khiyam, and Mufid Jawdat Barakat from al-Habbariyah.

Israelis Said Wounded in Islamic Resistance Attack

NC3005111593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] According to reports from the south, the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Luwayzah came under artillery shelling this morning from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah and al-'Ayshiyah.

The Israeli occupation forces also raked al-Jabal al-Akhdar and (al-Tasah) stream with large-caliber machine guns.

In another development, the Islamic Resistance issued a statement saying that its units attacked an Israeli position in Sujud with machine guns and rockets and wounded some of its personnel.

Decision To Suspend AL-SHARQ Revoked

NC2905055893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] The decision to suspend the newspaper AL-SHARQ for one week was rescinded yesterday. The newspaper appeared today without being suspended for a single day.

Finance Official Urges Tight Monetary Policy

NC3105093893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs, has affirmed that Prime Minister al-Hariri's government will not respond to pressure by the economic and social sectors for pay increases. This is because the government has decided not to spend one piaster, irrespective of pressure. The government will maintain this policy until it overcomes the financial crisis and eliminates inflation.

According to his visitors, Sinyurah called for continuing this policy and implementing the taxation policy until the government is able to eliminate inflation, the pound regains its former value, the economy strengthens, and the monetary situation flourishes again. Then the country will be able to relax, he said.

Al-Shar' Discusses Peace Efforts With Lebanon's Buwayz

JN2905163693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Taha al-Khayrat, head of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry, as well as Albert 'Asi, head of the Lebanese Office in Damascus.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the outcome of the ninth round of bilateral talks, developments in the peace process, and the upcoming coordination meeting in Amman. The two ministers also touched on a host of issues of common interest.

Foreign Minister Meets With Iran's Besharati

JN3005160893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today.

Attending the meeting on the Syrian side were Raslan 'Allush, assistant foreign minister, and Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab homeland department. On the Iranian side were (Jawad Ansari), director of the Africa and Arab East department, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Besharati briefed al-Shar' on the results of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati's tour of Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states. The two sides discussed relations between Egypt and Iran.

Faruq al-Shar' expressed Syria's satisfaction with positive developments in Arab-Iranian relations, particularly the resumption of dialogue between the United Arab Emirates and Iran to resolve their problems peacefully.

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Delivers Message for al-Asad

JN3005160393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. The message deals with regional developments.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the message today when he received Col. al-Qadhdhafi's personal envoy Ibrahim al-Bishari.

Amman Meeting To Review U.S. Role in Peace Talks

JN2805190093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in arabic 1530 GMT 28 May 93

[Unattributed commentary from the Palestine Broadcast]

[Text] The intransigent Israeli position, which coincides with stepped up repression in the occupied Arab territories and continued attacks on southern Lebanon, remains a serious obstacle to the peace process and frustrates the hopes pinned on this process to help achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict. Thus far, the provocative Israeli position, which has precluded any progress throughout the past nine rounds of talks, has remained unchanged. Indeed, it is noticeable that this position is getting more intransigent and stubborn by the day. What is alarming is that former enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has not hesitated to call publicly for the demolition of refugee camps, the expulsion of Palestinians, and also the continued construction and expansion of settlements.

The Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks has underscored its commitment to the peace process and affirmed the need for it to be directed toward a just solution. Meanwhile, the Arab news media underscored the need to coordinate Arab positions and enhance cooperation among the Arab sides concerned with the peace process. They added that coordination constitutes, from the practical point of view, a strong trump card that could be played in the face of the Israeli intransigence and U.S. bias.

Lebanese diplomatic sources have revealed to a correspondent of Radio Orient in Beirut that the meeting due to be held in Amman [on 6 June] by the foreign ministers of the Arab sides concerned with the Middle East peace process will witness a thorough review of the U.S. role in the peace talks in light of the results of the ninth round of these talks. These sources indicated that the overriding desire of the Arab sides, which will conduct the review, is to open a new dialogue with the U.S. Administration. This dialogue will look at the nature and limits of the U.S. role in the talks. It will seek to reach agreement with the United States on a new course for these talks based on the idea of postponing the 10th round of talks until the U.S. side manages to obtain results that could help the next round of peace talks make the desired progress and not meet the same fate of the previous rounds.

Afghanistan

Clashes Continue in Kabul Despite Cease-Fire

LD3105171393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Despite the cease-fire, the warring sides in Afghanistan have fired on each other's positions in the west and east of Kabul during past 24 hours.

According to a spokesman of the Red Crescent hospital in Kabul, as a result of the clashes four persons were killed and a number were injured.

According to news sources the clashes took place between the forces of the Supervisory Council and Hezb-e Eslamic [Islamic Party] in the east of Kabul, and the forces of Sayyaf and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye [Islamic Unity Party] in the west and southwest of Kabul.

According to a Central News Unit report, despite sporadic clashes between the warring sides, Kabul's electricity and water supplies, which had been cut for over a month, were restored yesterday.

Rabbani Congratulates Pakistani Prime Minister

LD2905190693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpts] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has congratulated Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on the reinstatement of his government. The message reads:

Dear brother Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of Pakistan. [passage omitted]

On behalf of the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and on my own behalf I express cordial congratulations to you and through you to the Government and fraternal people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on your reinstatment as prime minister of your country.

The decisions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on your government's reinstatement is a demonstration of the confidence of the people in your policies, and a result of your government's respectful service to improving the living standards of the people, the realization of [words indistinct] and democracy in society, and to regional and international peace. The people of Afghanistan, who are passing through a very difficult stage of their history, consider your government's standards to be a demonstration of real democracy and a reflection of the demands of the people of Pakistan, and therefore a welcome event. They also consider it helpful toward peace and security in south and southwest Asia and for international peace.

I am fully confident that the continuation of your government, as in the past, will also be a continuation of comprehensive and real cooperation between the fraternal and Muslim nations of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and will be a continuation of the expansion of economic, scientific, and technical relations between the two governments.

India

U.S. Denies Conditions Attached to Rao Visit

BK3005031493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The U.S. vice president, Mr. Albert Gore, has said that the Clinton administration is keen to have an early visit by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. In a telephonic talk with the Indian ambassador, Mr. Sidhartha Shanker Ray, in Washington, Mr. Gore denied reports in a section of the Indian press that the United States might be setting preconditions to the visit. He emphasized that Washington would welcome Mr. Rao's visit and favor the development of fruitful and meaningful bilateral relationship.

The U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Malott, has also categorically denied newspaper reports that the United States has placed any conditions on Mr. Rao's visit to his country.

Rao Orders Review of Arrests on Communal Grounds

BK3005163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] It has been officially stated that only about 1,200 persons arrested in connection with communal riots are still in custody in six states and one union territory. The persons belong to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Delhi. All of them have been booked either for specific offences or as a preventive measure.

A spokesman of the Home Ministry said in New Delhi today that in all one lakh persons were arrested or detained in the wake of communal riots after 6 December last year. The spokesman said the prime minister is very much concerned over reports that persons arrested for their alleged involvement in communal riots have been held without filing charges in the law courts. Mr. Narasimha Rao also directed that a review of all such arrests should be carried out to ensure that none is held in custody without adequate justification. Following the directive, the center has approached the state governments for necessary information and also for initiating a review of all arrests and detention, the spokesman added.

Elections Held for West Bengal Local Bodies

Two Killed in Clash

BK3005125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] In West Bengal, the polling for the fourth general election to the Panchayat [rural local] bodies passed off peacefully barring a few stray incidents. Briefing newsmen in Calcutta this evening, the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, said about 55 percent polling has been reported up to 1400. He said the percentage of polling is likely to go up to over 60 percent after the final figures are made available from the districts. Panchayat sources told our Calcutta correspondent that the figure might increase up to 70 percent.

The chief minister disclosed that there were two incidents of death in a clash between the supporters of the Congress-I and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] in Murshidabad District. Another person belonging to the Congress-I died in Birbhum District while making bombs. Police had to open fire at two places in Murshidabad and Howrah districts. No one was injured; 55 persons have been arrested throughout the state. In the elections to the 15 municipalities and by-election to 19 boards of 16 other municipalities, the polling has been reported 65 percent.

CPI-M Wins Most Seats

BK3105164293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] In the West Bengal gram panchayat [rural bodies] elections, out of 25,205 results declared so far, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has bagged 14,998 seats, followed by the Congress-I with 6,824. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has got 1,244; the Forward Bloc, 452; the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], 459; the CPI [Communist Party of India], 266; the Janata Dal-B, one; and independents and others, 961.

Results of elections from all the 15 municipalities have come in. The Left Front-led CPI-M has secured a majority in eight municipalities while the Congress-I got a majority in five and the BJP in one. No party secured an absolute majority in one.

A few results of the panchayat samities [rural bodies] and zila parishads [district councils] have also come in. Out of the 30 results announced for the panchayat samities, 29 have gone in favor of the CPI-M and one to the Congress-I. The CPI-M candidates have won two zila parishad seats in Jalpaiguri.

Speaker Disqualifies 4 Janata Dal-Ajit MP's

BK0106093293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 June 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, has disqualified four members of the Janata Dal-Ajit for violation of party whip under the anti-defection law. They are Mr. Ram Sunder Das, Mr. Govind Chandra Munda, Mr. Gholam Mohammed Khan, and Mr. Ram Badan.

According to a Lok Sabha press release in New Delhi today, they have ceased to be members of the Lok Sabha with immediate effect. Mr. Patil, however, recognized the faction of the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party, JDPP, in the Lok Sabha with 16 members out of the original 20 led by Mr. Ajit Singh.

The speaker while deciding the Janata Dal anti-defection law case dismissed three petitions filed by Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Srikant Jena. In their separate petitions, Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Srikant Jena sought action against Mr. Ajit Singh and 15 other MPs of the JDPP under the anti-defection law. Dismissing the petition, the speaker held that when separated from the original party on August 7 last year they were sitting members of the Lok Sabha and were equal to one-third members of the Janata Dal legislature party.

Hindu Shiv Sena Party Leader Shot to Death in Bombay

BK2905125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] In Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena MLC [member of the Legislative Council], Mr. Ramesh More, was shot dead by four unidentified assailants outside his residence at Andheri in the northwest suburbs of Bombay today. According to the police, seven shots were fired on the legislator. He was rushed to the hospital, but was declared dead before admission. The crime branch of the Bombay police is investigating the case.

Army Launches Crackdown on Insurgents in Manipur

BK2805162203 Hong Kong AFP in English 1606 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 28 (AFP)—The Indian army launched a crackdown Friday [28 May] on insurgents in the far-eastern state of Manipur, where nearly 100 people died in unprecedented Hindu-Muslim violence this month, officials said.

Soldiers, backed by paramilitary forces, began combing operations in both the hills and plains of the Hindu-majority state which borders Burma, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

No details were available, but the news agency said the army sweep was mainly directed at five outlawed groups, including the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN).

The PLA seeks to secede Manipur, while the NSCN, which is fighting to secede the neighbouring Christian-majority state of Nagaland, has bases in Manipur.

The army crackdown followed fresh violence between the Naga and Kuki tribes in Manipur's Ukhrul District Thursday in which NSCN activists shot dead a woman and set ablaze 75 houses, PTI said.

Three NSCN gunmen and one Kuku militant were also killed in clashes near the Burma border, officials said, without specifying when.

At least 96 people were killed early this month in violence between Hindus and Muslims in Manipur. Police said the clashes were a sequel to the beating of a Muslim gun-runner by some Hindu PLA members.

Uttar Pradesh Fundamentalists Said Getting Arms From Nepal

BK3005130193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh government has informed the center that some fundamentalist organizations in the state are receiving arms from Nepal. Talking to newsmen at Allahabad, the state director general of police, Mr. Prakash Singh, said some elements in Nepal are supplying arms and ammunition to fundamentalist organizations on communal considerations. He said the center has agreed to deploy the Indo-Tibetan Border Police along the Nepal border to check illegal arms transfer.

Security Forces in 'Full Control' in Punjab

BK0106033493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Security forces in Punjab are now in full control of the situation and the militancy-related crimes during the last month has come down almost to zero level. Security forces killed 85 terrorists, including five hard-core, and arrested over 100 militants during last month, while 82 militants voluntarily surrendered along with their arms.

Our Chandigarh correspondent reports that terrorism was at its peak last year when the militants gunned down Punjab Excise and Taxation Commissioner Mishra in Patiala, seriously injured Minister of State for Public Health Mr. Manenderjit Singh Bretta in a bomb attack in Amritsar, killed Agricultural Commission Member Mr. D.S. Tiagi in Delhi, and kidnapped and later beheaded All India Radio Patiala station engineer M.L. Manchanda.

'Eight Hard-Core Extremists' Captured in Nagaland

BK0106034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] In Nagaland, the security forces have launched combing operations in Zunheboto and Mokokchung Districts, following increased insurgency by the underground Nagas. The general officer commanding of (Jakhama), in a communication, said the combing operations have led to the capture of eight hard-core extremists, including three self-styled captains and two majors of some militant outfit. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including incriminating documents, were seized during the operations. The operation launched in close coordination with the civil administration is still continuing.

'Top Militant' Arrested in Kashmir

BK0106094093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the army achieved another success today when it arrested a top militant, Latif Ahmed, also a self-styled district commander of the militant outfit Ikhwanul Muslemin in Srinagar. According to an army spokesman, he was arrested from the Zero Bridge where he was running a business in automobile spare parts. His arrest was made on the basis of a specific information given by a colleague arrested earlier.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Election Address

LD2905131793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1016 GMT 29 May 93

[Election address by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, and peace be upon his messenger and his scion. I speak to the people on various occasions throughout the year. They are already familiar with my remarks, my discussions, and my work. They also know and have already formed their opinion of me. If it was not for the election campaign, there would have been no need for me to speak on this occasion at all, but I thought if I do not speak, then some people might think that I do not care, and that is not the way I am.

Basically I see no need to campaign for myself because people know everything about the government, and I have stressed that people who wish to launch a campaign for me should separate two issues. If the campaign is for me, there is no need for it. But if it is for the revolution and to warm people's hearts and remove the poisonous propaganda of the enemies, then it is useful. I attach a great deal of importance to more people going to ballot boxes. But who the people vote for is up to them, and they themselves make up their own mind based on what they know. I hope that those friends who do campaign for me avoid waste and unnecessary expenditure.

What I say will be, in fact, about the revolution and our collective success and the future of the revolution. I am also an individual among the masses. If we have anything at all, it belongs to all of us. Of course, if responsibility is not implemented, the officials take a bigger share of the responsibility.

About the issues that I would like to discuss with people, I thought I would give a picture of our situation some four or five years ago, before we began our [first development] plan and the new government, and compare it with today's situation and then explain our future plans. Of course I think that a 30-minute interview is not long enough for all such issues, and we will concentrate mainly on the present situation and the past. God willing, I will then explain what we have planned for the future and what we have on the agenda for another program that has been planned.

Fortunately, our Economic Council approved the principles, methods of approach, and policies of our second plan, and this is now in the hands of the media, so these are not merely claims. They are approvals on the basis of which the country's huge plan will be written.

Also, if there is praise for our achievements, I should not be the only one to take the credit for it. As I mentioned, I am also an individual, and in this work, the government, Majles, leadership instructions, and, most important of all, the efforts and support of the people have made such achievements. The system as a whole has merely rendered a service and done some work.

Now let us see what has been achieved. I think a word or two might remove any possible misunderstanding that might have been created by the poisonous propaganda of foreign media or possibly by some uninformed domestic circles that might have resulted in the pollution of people's minds.

When we took on the executive responsibility of the state, more than a year had passed since the end of the war. We did not have our exalted imam [Khomeyni] among us. The war had ended without the enemy leaving our soil, whereas we had withdrawn from the enemy soil in a cease-fire. Our prisoners of war were still in Iraq; our Hajj had stopped, and all the world centers of propaganda and media had taken a stance in support of our enemy and against us. Many had little hope that international centers [marakez-e beynolmelali] would admit our vindication. They were concerned that the international centers would tyrannically usurp our rights and vindicate the enemy—who was the aggressor.

Well, in these areas—which relate to our foreign policy, as well—our people know what happened. We appropriately forced the enemy to confess its mistake. In the last letter that the Iraqi president wrote to me, he accepted all our demands. Our prisoners of war returned, with the exception of some who, through Iraqi intransigence, are still there. God willing, we will resolve this in the future. We evicted the enemy from our soil and obtained UN acknowledgement of our vindication and Iraqi aggression.

Another part of our problems related to the devastation of the war. There were hundreds of thousands of refugee families; 10 cities, 1,200 villages, and three provinces were almost half-destroyed. Many cities and expensive factories and installations were ruined. Now, thank God, you can see that nearly 90 percent of what was destroyed has been rebuilt, and the refugees have returned—with the exception of 30,000 to 40,000 families. During the past four years we have spent more than 200 billion tomans [one toman equals 10 rials] and $600 million on reconstruction. Today those cities and villages are flourishing and being swiftly reconstructed.

The state's financial situation: Well, our people know how it was then. Our budget had a deficit of 51 percent. Few countries have such a problem. Beside $1 trillion—$1 trillion—of remaining war damage, there was negative investment—each year it was declining—the GNP was decreasing, that is, the state wealth was decreasing—the population was increasing, and production was decreasing.

Our current and development budgets were not balanced then. A small sum used to be spent on development projects, and we had to live from one day to the next. Our people can see the situation today. This year was the first time in 25 years that we submitted a budget without a deficit to the Majles. It was the first time in 27 years that our development budget, along with the current budget, reached from 19 percent to 29 percent [sentence as heard].

Taxes are being collected in a satisfactory manner. Oil income has increased, and production has shown an average net growth of 8.3 percent for the past four years. Investment has grown by 12 percent, which is very good for a healthy economy. Distribution is becoming fairer. Previously, the top strata used to take a bigger share. Now distribution has been reformed in the interest of the lower strata of society.

Those unhealthy channels, such as hoarding and so on, only made the rich richer, but today only production is effective in that regard.

All other sections of the country were also facing problems. I will mention all of the sections briefly so that you can see how our situation was then and how it is now. In education, research, and culture, we could not accept more than 400,000 students at our universities. Today that figure has reached 800,000, and it will even increase next year.

Literacy had almost come to a standstill, and in one or two years it showed a growth rate equivalent to 10 years. We had few primary and high schools, but we immediately began building many schools all over the country, particularly in villages. Where manpower was needed, we trained and employed many teachers and lecturers.

Our hospitals, which had provided services in wartime and had worn-out equipment, have been reequipped. Today most of our hospitals are equipped, and more than 5 million square meters of training hospitals have either been constructed and made operational or are under construction.

We stocked up our libraries, and our press is flourishing now that paper and printing problems have been removed.

We have really taken great steps in film, cinema, the arts in general, and in the expansion of areas covered by Voice and Vision [radio and television], tourism, sports, and similar cultural and educational matters. The situation now is not at all comparable to the past.

In relation to other infrastructural work, for example in the administrative sector, our higher council for administrative affairs has normally made one or two important decisions every month, for the purpose of making things easier for the people. We have also succeeded in increasing our employees's salaries, so that they can enjoy relative satisfaction, even though the salary level has not as yet reached the desirable level. Administrative reforms have taken important steps, and more are on the way.

In the oil sector, we used to produce 2.5 million barrels per day, one-fifth of which was defective because gas had not been injected into the oil wells. Today, we have reached the production level of 4.1 million barrels [per day], all of which is free from defect. Furthermore, new exploration of off-shore and on-shore resources has provided us with very good figures.

Our petrochemical industries were almost at a standstill. Thanks to God, today we have installations that produce, or have the potential to produce, 5 million tonnes of petrochemical products. Many people thought that the Iran-Japan petrochemical industrial project was completely lost, but with the money that we received from the Japanese, we reconstructed it. This complex was bombed dozens of times, or at least 10 times, anyway [during the Iran-Iraq war]. Right now, a section of that complex is operating, and in the near future it will deliver 3 million tonnes of expensive petrochemical products. We must also add the petrochemical complexes of Arak, Esfahan, Tabriz, and Shiraz.

The natural gas supply project, which was one of our country's aspirations, was going ahead very slowly. At great cost, we have now supplied gas to about 160 towns, as well as to 1,200 major factories and power stations. This is now spreading with great speed; and gas guarantees the survival of the fuel resources and the environment of our country.

In the water and electricity sector, we remember that even though the bulk of our factories were not working and our energy consumption was at a low level, we used to have hours of power cuts. By spending huge sums, we have built new power stations and have repaired the existing ones that had been damaged. Today, we have almost reached an equilibrium in which our production matches our consumption during peak hours. Of course, sometimes incidents occur that may lead to an hour of power cuts, but this will be resolved in the future with the use of reserve power stations.

Water was a severely neglected issue in our country. We gave priority to harnessing water resources. About 100 dams are at a steady level and 20 dams are under construction, for both drinking, and irrigation purposes.

In the mines sector, when we began, our mines were redundant. There was next to nothing. Everyone believed that this work was for the government only [as heard]. Today the mines form one of the most active sectors in the country, and this is a cause for pride. With all the mining machinery that is produced inside the country, this sector's future is very bright.

When we started in the metals sector, we were producing 1 million tonnes of steel. The first development plan stated that we needed 5 to 6 million tonnes of steel per year to meet our consumption demands, that is, the extra volume had to be imported. Now the situation is such that last year we exported 800,000 tonnes of steel, and this figure will grow this year. You must also be aware that the situation regarding lead, aluminum, and copper has also improved considerably.

In the agricultural sector, when we started in 1368 [March 1989 to March 1990], we had to import 5 million tonnes of wheat. Today, however, while our population has grown by 6 million during these four years, we are importing 2.5 million tonnes, and we are moving toward self-sufficiency. The same applies to barley, grain, beet, sugar, tea, and other products. Farmers are really being very active, and we have attended to their needs.

On cattle-breeding, today we have brought the level of imported meat to something lower than 50,000 tonnes, whereas we used to import the bulk of our meat. We have done this by bringing the price of domestically produced meat to a suitable level. Poultry is either not imported at all or is imported at a very low level.

The fishing industry is now meeting people's demands. We have paid attention to forests and pastures and to nomads and farmers and their villages. Fortunately, this sector is growing, and God willing, in time to come we will witness effective steps in relation to the issue of land reclamation in the deserts, which is one of the country's serious needs. So far, important works have been done in that regard.

The transport sector presented one our most difficult tasks. Even with the small volume of cargo that we used to move around, there was always a black market in the transport sector. If only a few ships entered the ports at the same time, suddenly the price of cargo transport would shoot up. Now we have established an equilibrium. The railway system is fully active, and we have introduced new locomotives and numerous railway cars to the system, which has undergone reforms and modifications. We have also constructed new rail routes, made the fast-track system operational, and developed the railway that connects the southern regions to Tehran.

We have also paid attention to roads and highways, as well as to airports. We now have airports in many towns.

The city transport system used to be lamentable indeed; our people can witness today how things have improved.

With regard to housing, everything used to be on basis of quotas. People hade to wait for land, building materials, water, and electricity. Right now, except in a few large cities, land for housing, at government prices, is available to people everywhere. There is no black market for building materials, which are available to anyone, while we pay subsidies for the construction of small houses and connect them to water and electricity supplies free of charge.

Our people remember what our cities, including Tehran, used to be like. They were in ruins because of the war and because they had sent all their resources to the war fronts. We have given these cities and towns a great deal of value. Today, you witness how different cities and towns are in comparison to the past and what a great deal of development has taken place in them.

The cooperative sector was on its way to becoming extinct. Through establishing the Cooperative Ministry, this economic, as well as humane, sector was rejuvenated. Thanks to God, the cooperatives are now active.

The peak of our services and effective measures can be found in our industries, which were almost at a standstill. We used to provide them with small amounts of foreign exchange at the government rate, and they used to produce a little and then either give it to the government or distribute it through illegitimate channels, where a multiplicity of prices and a black market situation reigned. This was a serious problem in our production sector.

Today, you witness that in the majority of provinces, several industrial estates have been constructed, and new industries are growing fast. The old industries have all been reconstructed, and they are today self-sufficient. In the past, the majority of the state-owned industries, in particular, were making a loss. For instance, when we began our presidency, the vehicle production industries owed people tens of thousands of trucks, buses, and cars. In other words, they had received the money for these vehicles, spent it, and then had no material to use for production and for meeting orders. All these orders have now been met, and the vehicle factories have saturated the internal markets and have started to export. Moreover, they no longer receive any subsidies from us. Previously, they produced goods on the basis of the 70-rial foreign exchange rate [per dollar]. Today, they are standing on their own feet. This is beneficial both for the economy and for employment.

Among the rest of the industries, we granted more importance to processing industries because we did not want the farmers to be stuck with their produce. In this way, agricultural products could be processed into durable, expensive, and exportable goods.

We also paid attention to rural industries in order to keep the rural population in their villages. I must point out here that the villages received a great deal of attention during the first plan. We have spent more than 50 billion tomans per year in the deprived areas, not including the foreign exchange that we have provided at the government rate. Numerous villages were provided with water, electricity, health centers, medical doctors, and roads. This process is continuing with great momentum.

In our military industries, we have taken extremely effective steps, and we have reformed the structure of these industries. Those parts that had been inflated during the war were given dual purpose so that they could serve both the people and the armed forces, and, thanks to God, they are doing that now. Alongside this, we have attended to the problems of the armed forces by increasing salaries, paying them what we owed them from the time of the war, and reconstructing their tools. Today we see that the armed forces are serving the country's development.

The Revolutionary Guard Corps alone has so far carried out development work, in the form of contract work, worth about 30 billion tomans. In this way they earn an income, which they can use to maintain and repair their machinery, while they are adding to the country's capacity for contractual work. The same also applies to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and ground forces.

We have attended to the judicial apparatus. In the majority of the towns, the buildings that house the judiciary organs were dilapidated, which we dealt with. We increased the judges' salaries to a sufficient level, which is an essential requirement of the Islamic system. Thanks to God, they have been transformed into an active system.

We had a chaotic situation in the distribution sector. Imports had no administrator, except the government, which was importing certain things with state currency. For their needs, people depended on travelers or smuggled goods. Today, everything is fully available in the bazaar and is based on a balanced supply and demand. This must be considered one of the most important things: the fact that we have established supply and demand with most consumer items. There are rare cases in which the supply is less, and this will be reformed with intervention.

Exports are active and have quadrupled. This must grow. Distribution has taken a rational shape. Customs were inactive, but are today among the most active and zealous organizations, dealing with import and export matters.

In communications and the post, we remember that there was a black market for telephones everywhere. Today, telephones are available in plenty in most parts of the country, even the villages, and prices are fair. It was state regulated before and received currency from the state. Today, they are gradually acting independently and economically. The postal service has had wonderful

speed in its development and is today delivering people's letters to all parts of the country.

Altogether, with the issues relating to services, effective steps have been taken. Using universities for industrial research and using industrial capacities for university research. The creation of links between the two. Using scientific resources in nuclear energy for health matters and the preservation of the country's foodstuff. Other scientific matters have taken effective steps taken in this direction.

Unemployment was one of the main problems that we had at the beginning of the first plan. With great fundamental work and follow-up efforts, the rate of employment, considering the rate of the population growth, fortunately has been reduced from 15 percent to 11 percent, which is a proud achievement for this period. With the reform of the employment law, we have made the work environment safe for staff and workers. We have increased their wages and their minimum wage to a relatively proper condition.

The principles of the task are first to create employment in the community—we should create the basis for employment for those who are able to work. If this was a remote wish four or five years ago, it is now a realizable wish because we have passed through the difficult stages of the first plan. At the moment, we have about 1,000 industrial projects that are supposed to become operational this year. We have more industrial projects under way, which will gradually be implemented.

In the agriculture sector, there are expansive projects in various areas of mining, agriculture, fisheries, and services, etc, which will be implemented soundly in the second plan and which will create jobs. We hope that there will be jobs for those people who want to work.

There are those who either cannot work or whose earnings cannot meet their expenditure. These people must be protected by the government. We must bring up their standard of living, through social security and health insurance, to an acceptable common level. Of course, we cannot say they should be like others, for this is not practical. Someone who works deserves more. But we must provide a minimum livelihood and minimum health. Fortunately, we have prepared the bills that are to go to the Majles. Gradually, we will have to give them credit and carry them out.

In the first program, we greatly valued the university, the Ministry of Education, and the training of specialists at the university level and for technical expertise. Progress on this has been halfway accomplished. The product will not be obtained immediately. For example, the reform of the secondary school system started this year. The graduates of these technical schools will enter the job market in two or three years. At the professional manpower level, a number of scientific and applied universities have just started, and their graduates can take bigger steps in the management of the country's technology.

Most important is the specialist and post-specialist levels, which we greatly valued in the first development plan and which allowed the initiation of many high-level degrees at the doctoral and senior specialist levels. We also greatly valued the senior government bursaries, and we now have many university students abroad who are studying at the specialist or post- specialist levels.

I hope that by the end of the second plan these investments of ours will come to fruition and that their results meet the technical and specialized needs of the state.

On top of that, many are being trained in their jobs. At the moment, management training centers, etc., are active. On the whole, as was mentioned in your question—and it is correct—we cannot utilize our resources properly without a workforce. Fortunately, this has been considered in the first plan and will become complete in the second plan.

For those who receive financial assistance—who really deserved it—we managed to increase assistance several fold. For relief work, side by side with the policy of economic adjustment [ta'dil], we set aside a huge budget. Organs such as the Relief Committee, Welfare Committee, and others are receiving credit many times more and have increased their services.

Considerable work has been carried out on behalf of the environment. This is one the country's fundamental tasks.

A skilled workforce is one the country's serious needs. Through actions carried out by the Ministry of Labor in expanding the vocational and technical training centers, as well as reform in the secondary school system and the founding of universities for applied sciences, we have built the foundations for training a skilled and specialized workforce—the shortage of which is something that our country suffers from. We hope to see the effects of this in the future and in the second plan.

In this period, we were also tested by God. We have had several divine calamities, earthquakes, floods, and destruction. Thank God, with the help of the people and the efforts of the Red Crescent and other relevant bodies, we were able to pass those tests and were exonerated in front of God.

To be fair, the law enforcement forces have properly maintained the country's security in thisperiod, despite all the mischief about our country. The fight against contraband, especially narcotics, kept a considerable portion of our forces busy.

One of the big tasks we started, the effects of which we will see later, is encouraging women to take part in social affairs and fulfill their role in the society, which they, thank God, welcomed. In this matter, we especially rely on the younger generation. The Supreme Youth Council was established to protect our youth from the cultural onslaught and also to prepare them for the country's future. We consider these as one of our important and

effective achievements, which will be explained, God willing, in future interviews.

Of course, what I have discussed is a summary of the implemented programs. We recently published a 200- to 300-page book that contains a list of the work carried out in the program. Anybody who is interested could obtain and read it.

What is important for me now to say to our people is that all the work that has been done represents the most difficult part of the reconstruction stage. That is, if we compare it to a road, we have traversed the uphill part, which was rough, with numerous difficulties that foreigners and ignorant individuals placed in our path, and have nearly reached the crest.

In that period we used our experience. We are preparing the second plan. God willing, in my next interview, I will outline the policies and the aim of the second plan for you, the people. You will see that by solving these problems and carrying out infrastructure work, we have paved the way for the second plan. As a result, the road for the next four or five years can be traversed much easier.

We solved the foreign exchange problems. At present, the Central Bank is in control of the exchange rate. Any country that has introduced the single parity exchange rate has gone into economic shock and social crisis. Thank God, all went well in our country thanks to the measures taken. We brought the economy out of a recession and made it active. Today the banks are handling a huge portion of the country's economy, and vast sums of the people's deposits are in the banks and are being spent on development and construction work.

By increasing foreign currency and rial revenues, by collecting taxes at a relatively good level, by creating good commercial tariffs, which we can now have, and by taking control of the foreign exchange market, we are getting ready for the second plan so that, God willing and with the cooperation of the Majles, we can paint a picture of the second five-year plan for our nation [as heard].

I hope that with the cooperation of the people and the officials of the system we will achieve the desired future for our country, and, God willing, in five years' time this country will be self-sufficient in every sense, independent, nonaligned, revolutionary and a protector of Islamic ideals and those of our dear-departed imam.

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Mohtashemi Criticizes Hashemi-Rafsanjani Policies

NC3005081293 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 20 May 93 pp 10, 12

["Frank and open" interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] In your view, how successful has Iran's foreign policy been during President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's term?

[Mohtashemi] Of course, I would word this question differently. I would ask how successful has Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy been during his presidency. This is because if we discuss the Islamic revolution's policy within the framework of the Constitution and in the context of the policies of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, and the policies the great leader has been pursuing in his allegiance to the imam, these policies have not been followed very carefully during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's term. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has his own series of ideas, policies, and programs regarding relations with foreign countries, on the basis of which he can resolve our country's problems. Therefore, we should assess whether he has been successful in his foreign policy during this term.

According to my appraisal, his foreign policy is based on the principle of forging relations with Western and industrially developed countries and with neighboring countries. Naturally, if forging such relations is one of the principles of foreign policy, then some of our interests have to be sacrificed for this end. [passage omitted]

Iran staged a revolution that impacted the world like a tidal wave. Hence, the powers of world arrogance spearheaded by the United States are trying to defeat this revolution and are allegedly seeking to make the people regret that they ever brought about such a revolution. In this manner, they wish to warn other nations of the repercussions of every such movement and revolution. [passage omitted]

I believe the foreign policy during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's term has been unsuccessful, and he has not even been able to maintain relations that had been forged with foreign countries in the past on the basis of correct principles and expediencies conforming to the policy of honor and power.

Today we do not have healthy relations with West, and nor have we been able to establish friendly relations with neighboring countries or with the Persian Gulf littoral states, which could ensure the interests of Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is regretful.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Have our economic and political relations with various countries been marked by appropriate growth in conformity with the objectives of the system in the past four years?

[Mohtashemi] I believe, of course, that the answer to that question has been given in my response to the first question. It appears that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has been unsuccessful and unable to establish suitable political and economic relations with various countries. Not only have we not had any proper growth in our economic and political relations with foreign

countries, but to a great extent, I think that there has been a negative trend in this sphere. [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Undoubtedly, the Islamic revolution and his eminence the imam have numerous supporters. Has the Islamic Republic's government formulated proper programs and relations with governments in order to capitalize on this potential [preceding word in English] to the utmost?

[Mohtashemi] The first part of this question is true 100 percent. We have innumerable supporters and followers, not only in Islamic countries, but also in Arab-Islamic countries. In view of my political experience and the understanding I have of the world's nations and countries—Islamic and non-Islamic—the Islamic revolution has numerous followers and supporters in non-Islamic countries as well. By capitalizing on this vast and extraordinary popular potential, Iran can make major strides in the world and benefit from this actual and potential capability to the advantage of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic world and in forging suitable economic and political relations with other countries. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, the programs that are being implemented by the government up to now lack a clear-cut stance and necessary and swift action regarding the fate of Muslims in the Islamic world. This has transformed the hopes of the Islamic revolution's supporters into chagrin, and the sprouting blossoms and buds have withered and scattered.

Today we are witnessing the extensive onslaught by the powers of world arrogance against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kashmir, where these powers are seeking revenge. This is, in fact, revenge for the Islamic revolution.

Today the destiny of Islam and the Muslims is at an extremely crucial juncture. What is the reason for all these atrocities being perpetrated against the Muslims in Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, the Asian and African continents, Europe, and the [Indo-Pakistan] subcontinent? Is it because the Western and U.S. enemies, as well as our Eastern enemies, feel endangered by Bosnian Muslims merely as Bosnians? These Bosnian Muslims have lived in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Europe for the past 600 years and were never a source of danger to the West. For more than a thousand years, Muslims have resided in Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Lebanon, Kashmir, and Afghanistan and never threatened the West or the powers of world arrogance. So why is it that the world today is so fearful of them?

In my opinion, our enemies (Eastern and Western) are not afraid of Muslims if there is no Islamic revolution. This is because they can plant their pawns wherever they like, or remove them. What has inspired fear among the powers of world arrogance is pure Islam, which has brought about change and upheaval in the entire Islamic ummah and the world. The first such experiment was brought to fruition in Iran under the leadership of the late imam. [passage omitted]

We have an extraordinarily heavy obligation because we are responsible not only for our destiny, but for our potential capability beyond our borders, as well. The country's officials should keep in mind that without resorting to the all-encompassing principles and aspirations of our Islamic revolution, we cannot continue the existence of Iran's system.

The very existence of the system is constantly linked to the values and aspirations of our revolution. If we forget the depth of our strategic objectives in other Islamic and non-Islamic countries and become indifferent to their destinies, this would be tantamount to ignoring the destiny and interests of the Iranian system.

Our destinies are inextricably linked to the fate of other Muslims, and we have common destinies. If Muslims today are being dragged into blood and dust in Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, it is because the heads of Islamic countries have brought about such a situation through their deadly silence, as they themselves wallow in comfort and mundane pursuits.

If all Muslims were to feel a sense of responsibility toward the Bosnian and Palestinian Muslims and were to rise up, the world would not have the strength to confront them. You tell me how the Muslims can achieve this.

I can only say that the Muslim nations are endowed with an increasing political and economic strength in the whole world, the jugular vein of which is in the hands of the Muslims. The energy and fuel for the West's industrial machinery passes through the oil pipelines of Islamic countries. The heart of the West and world arrogance pulsates because of the Islamic world. Iran alone has the most extensive gas reserves in the world, and in fact, the entire world is dependent on Iran. [passage omitted]

In the past, Hizballah cells and resistance forces aggressively attacked the powers of world arrogance and the colonialist world. These attacks and actions motivated the enemies to fear for the safety of their existence in the world.

Unfortunately, because of the implementation of various policies by Iran, the enemy today has become complacent. Not only has the world become a safe haven for the enemy, but this situation has encouraged it to make the world insecure for Muslims under the aegis of this safety.

Until yesterday, insecurity was at the enemy's door. Today, however, as a result of the policies of executive branch officials, the enemy has made the Islamic world unsafe for Islam and the Muslims. Today the Muslims in the Islamic world, Iran, and the Islamic revolution have no recourse but to change the equilibrium and create such movements, just as Muslims did at the advent of Islam and when the Islamic revolution under the leadership of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni was victorious.

Such actions can only be carried out by capitalizing to the utmost on the extensive potential of the supporters and followers of the Islamic revolution.

Velayati: 'Hostile' U.S. Policies Cannot Bend Iran's Will

LD3005134993 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—More than a decade of American hostility, plots and rowdyism against the Islamic Republic of Iran "have not been able and will not be able to bend the firm will of the Iranian nation", Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today. Velayati brushing aside the recent remarks of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher against Iran, said the hostile positions and policies of U.S. administrations against Iran are not something new.

Last Friday Christopher spoke of what he called "isolating" Iran in the international arena, and said that Washington is trying to pressure its allies to follow a similar policy against Islamic Iran. "U.S. hostility and interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic have continued since the triumph of the Islamic revolution and opposition of the Iranian Government and nation against American hegemony," Velayati added.

As for Iran's relations with other world countries, he said, these are based on mutual interests, and it is quite clear that independent countries will not submit to U.S. pressures and bullying, and will not sacrifice the interests of their nations on the altar of Washington's illicit intentions.

Foreign Ministry Denies Alleged Oil Sale to Serbia

LD3005154793 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today categorically rejected allegations in the British daily [as received] 'SUNDAY TIMES' that Iran had agreed to export oil to Serbia.

A spokesman dismissed the claim as part of efforts by certain Western countries to cover up their "inhuman" policy of overt and covert support for the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to abort international measures against the Serbs.

The principled and humanitarian policies of the Islamic Republic towards the Bosnian issue and Iran's all-out support for the Muslim people of that republic to regain their legitimate rights are too blatant and clear to be affected by such false charges, he said.

Such false accusations will affect neither Iran's policies nor world public opinion but on the contrary will further make expose [as received] the inhuman goals of those circles which pay lip service to Bosnia but practically support the Serbs, remarked the spokesman.

Velayati Receives UAE President's Message on Relations

LD3005103793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] United Arab Emirates [UAE] ambassador to Tehran Ahmad Muhammad Burhayman met with Foreign Minister Velayati today, and submitted a written message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the course of the meeting the UAE ambassador expressed satisfaction at positive steps which have been taken in the two countries' relations. Mr Velayati reciprocated his expression of satisfaction and welcomed the future visit of Shaykh Hamdan [Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan], the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, to Tehran.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Addresses Nation

BK2805174293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1525 GMT 28 May 93

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on 28 May; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most compassionate and merciful, my dear countrymen, peace be upon you. My address today is dedicated to the sentiments, determination, and struggle of the Pakistani nation, which has written a new and unprecedented history and revived the memory of the movement for the establishment of Pakistan.

There are many similarities between this movement for the restoration of the people's rule and the movement for the founding of Pakistan. The same groups that participated actively in the movement for Pakistan waged this movement as well. The movement for Pakistan achieved success in a short period of time, as did this movement. The struggle of the movement for Pakistan was extremely peaceful and constitutional, as was our current movement.

This has made one thing clear: If the leadership intends it, our people will remain highly peaceful and civilized. It is the leadership which is actually responsible for incidents of sabotage, blockade, and arson in any movement. It is the leadership which, due to its ill intentions, puts the people on the wrong path. Our current movement was popular and democratic, as was the movement for Pakistan. We are thankful to God that the people have achieved success this time as well.

In this connection, I shall first of all praise the glorious role of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Justice rises above all unjust influences. I personally attach more importance to the establishment of the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law than to the restoration of the National Assembly. The ambiguity about the powers of the persons and institutions working under the Constitution has been removed. Everybody's constitutional responsibilities have been determined and the issue has been settled for good that the law and the Constitution are above every person's or institution's wishes and prejudices. I hope that on this historic occasion, the Constitution and the rule of law will be accepted, setting aside personal ego and preference. I salute the Supreme Court, which has added a golden chapter in the annals of Pakistani history, and which will always be quoted as an example of justice and rule of law all over the world, thereby glorifving Pakistan's name. Besides the dispensation of this exemplary justice, the example of duty, sacrifice of personal emotions for the sake of the country and the national interest, and the firmness of faith set by a distinguished member of the apex court, Shafiur Rahman, is a beacon of light for the entire nation. I wish every individual of our nation had the same sense of duty.

My dear countrymen, it is not the Constitution and the rule of law alone that guarantee the stability of democracy, especially in a country like Pakistan where the democratic system has been the victim of repeated dissolutions. Our democratic system is moving toward stability despite receiving constant setbacks. I am happy that the Armed Forces of Pakistan are paying more attention to their professional role, and this attitude will be helpful in the growth of the democratic system. This fact is the clear-cut symbol of the firmness of our Armed Forces' thought and their professional role and honor. This is heartening both for the country and democracy.

My dear countrymen, on this occasion of the unforgettable triumph of the Constitution, the law, and the people, I also salute my nation, because the examples of its deep love and affection for democracy are things rarely found in the developing world. The Pakistani people has proved that its faith in democracy is as firm and resolute today as it was when Pakistan was established through the democratic process. During the past five weeks it has again been proved that the people of Pakistan are ready to offer all sacrifices to safeguard their democratic rights. This very spirit and determination of yours are a guarantee of the stability of democracy, and God willing, the democratic system in Pakistan will be able to grow in a better and favorable environment in the future. The tremendous struggle waged by you against the illegal dissolution of the elected National Assembly has also proved that the people are not ready to tolerate contempt for their votes. When I started the mass contact movement soon after my illegal dismissal, I received more love and support than I would have dreamed possible.

I could not have imagined that my country's people were so anxious and enthusiastic to see the completion of the work I started for our motherland's construction and development. Nor did I know that you would so dauntlessly rise against the forces obstructing the path of construction and development if I were myself obsructed from serving you. Believe me, the commitment to the stability of democracy and the country's prosperity displayed by you will always remain a source of strength for me. You have proved that you deserve progress, prosperity, and glory. I firmly believe that the people of my country are comparable to those of the finest nations of the world in terms of hard work and ability. They have the strength in their arms to move mountains and they have the skill to surmount the universe. Our nation is bestowed with all the abilities to be included among the world's respectable, honorable, and powerful nations.

My countrymen, as long as I live I will not be able to forget the love you bestowed on me during the past five weeks. This is the high point of my life. While still in office, I could not get the love rained on me like God's blessings that I received after I was relieved of office. I will try not only to maintain this love with you but to strengthen it further while remaining in office as well. Believe me, I cannot forget this love. I cannot forget the mothers and sisters, and elders who prayed to God for me. I cannot forget the elders, youths, and children who stood the whole day in the summer heat, sun, and dust wherever I went, and who stayed awake during the long nights waiting for me. I cannot forget the forceful slogans which gave me new determination and inspiration. I cannot forget the trembling lips, the faces streaked with tears and dust which kissed my forehead with love. I cannot forget the display of national integration I witnessed in all the four provinces with the same intensity. I cannot forget the prayers that were earnestly said in all the dialects of Pakistan for me. Believe me, I discovered a new world by coming closer to you. I have once again realized the Pakistan which was dreamed of by Allama Iqbal and our great leader Jinnah. The determination for the construction of Pakistan which I found in you is my goal and our relationship has given birth to a new political force. And this political force will now, God willing, continue to serve as a source of determination and strength forever. I have learned a lot from this new experience. It further fortified my objectives and freshened my soul.

My dear countrymen, the crisis of the last five weeks has stolen much from us. We can get back the lost wealth, stalled construction can be resumed, economic losses can be made up. But it is a very difficult job to restore trust or goodwill once it is lost. Of course, I feel sad for the losses the country's economy suffered during these five weeks, but I am not worried. What worries me is that an unconstitutional and illegal step has harmed our international image and shattered the confidence you and I built by making great sacrifices. Everything can be restored. But how can our credibility in the eyes of the world come back? It was because of this credibility that

investors were coming here. We told them we had entered a democratic era and there would be no political crisis here: You come and invest here and create job opportunities for our people and teach them skills. Your money and assets will be secure here. But the pledge could not be fulfilled. The National Assembly was once again dissolved without justification.

Of course, I was astonished. The outside world was also concerned. Those who were planning to come invest here, instead turned to other countries. Those who had prepared plans to set up factories here also wound down these plans. And those who had already started their work here stopped their projects and started worrying as to what would be the fate of their investments. The overseas Pakistanis who opened their accounts in foreign currency here started taking back their capital. The world started wondering about the state of affairs of this country where the term of a national assembly and the tenure of a government is not certain. And now, how can we assure the people that this will not be repeated?

This crisis of trust and confidence is the utmost cause of my anxiety. Nearly a hundred countries of the world are attracting investors by providing maximum concessions and incentives. We had gone far ahead of others in this competition. In this race, how can we reach that stage again when we have been knocked down, far behind others? My dear countrymen, this is a loss about which I am deeply concerned. But, witnessing your constructive spirit and solidarity, I am encouraged, and I am beginning my task with the hope that by making up the previous loss, I will be successful in diverting the foreign investment that turned away from us back toward Pakistan.

Now, it is not hidden from the world that the people of Pakistan have a strong determination to protect and strengthen democracy. Now, they have gathered so much courage that they can protect their democratic system, even if there is an onslaught in the dark of night. Your wholehearted commitment to the democratic system will play a great role in restoring the shattered confidence of the world.

Another thing which provides me courage and encouragement is the verdict of the Supreme Court. Now we can tell the world that the judicial system of Pakistan is so strong it can foil any attempt to create a political crisis by violating the Constitution. It has been proved that there is rule of law and justice in Pakistan. The rule of law and justice is the strong basis for political and social stability. God willing, we can tell the world that democracy not only survives in Pakistan, but its people are capable of protecting it as well, and its judicial system will foil every attempt to destroy it. These things are essential to make any society trustworthy. And by the grace of God, it has been proved that we have all these things. Thanks to the dignity and honor accorded by the people and the judiciary to our dear motherland, and this can be seen by the international community, God willing, we will regain our lost trust very soon.

My dear countrymen, now I am coming to the topic which you have been awaiting. You may need my clarification on the regrettable series of events spread over the past five weeks. First of all, I would like to tell you that I have come with a mind cleared of all grievances, anguish, and ill feeling. Today I have no grievances or complaints. After offering my prayers at Faisal mosque on hearing the news of my restoration, I invoked God to keep me away from mean human sentiments. I am resuming my journey of service with good intentions and an open mind. During these past five weeks I was taken to task, my character was assassinated. Allegations were leveled against me concerning Pakistan's nuclear program and the Kashmir issue. But the truth is that I had gotten the world to recognize for the first time the country's right to pursue a peaceful nuclear program.

Likewise, whatever my government did for Kashmir was acknowledged by the entire world, which also recognized that due to Pakistan's efforts, India is facing difficulties at the international level on the issue of human rights in Kashmir. An attempt was made to present lies as truth, but all these efforts were in vain, because the people knew that no one who had indulged in wrongdoings would submit himself to the people and the court after being removed from power the way I did. The people who stood by me in these days of trial deserve thanks not only from me but also from the entire nation. Those people are the assets of the country and the nation, people who have adopted the path of truth and principles, ignoring power and (?ostentation). These are the people who earn honor, dignity, and glory for the nation.

Our relations with the opposition in the past were not enviable. And the opposition leaders are themselves aware of the reason for this. But now no hurdle is left in the way of establishing cordial relations with the opposition. We will strive to establish a clean, democratic society in the country in which there will be discussion and debate on principles, perceptions, and viewpoints instead of vengeance, allegations, and character-assassination, and where new avenues of national development can be sought.

I pay tribute to the national press for its democracy-loving role. I shall keep freedom of the press dearer to me than ever before. I am grateful to the intellectuals in the human rights movement, lawyers and other learned persons, workers, traders, landless peasants and farmers, students, religious leaders, and the women for the manner in which they stood by me to ensure the supremacy of democracy and the rule of law. Let us begin the new era with a new determination and collectively rid our society of hypocrisy and deception, and let sincerity and honesty prevail in our society.

During my mass contact movement, I strongly felt that our people were very guileless, hard working, and full of love, and it would be a great misfortune if such people did not get honest leadership. I promised to rid the political environment of selfishness and hypocrisy. I am now taking steps toward this end and I shall need your

cooperation in this regard. You have vowed to stand by me and you will have to make good your promise. And I have myself taken a vow that the reconstruction, development, and prosperity of Pakistan will be my sole mission under the new mandate you have given to me.

I shall continue this reconstruction and development work with renewed vigor, courage, and determination, for which you have honored me. I will try to fulfill the responsibilities of my office, rising above party prejudices. You might have seen that as prime minister I never gave any consideration to party prejudice in whatever works I began for the welfare of the people. Whether it was the yellow taxi scheme or the provision of loans for employment, development work or financial facilities, distribution of land among the landless peasants or agricultural loans to farmers, I provided opportunity to every Pakistani, regardless of his party affiliation, to benefit from them equally. God willing, my policy will remain the same.

My dear countrymen, you are well aware of my programs and objectives. I am still committed to working with revolutionary speed to achieve agricultural and industrial revolutions and to promote a democratic culture.

As always, it will be my first priority to provide land to landless peasants. I am planning to devise some new programs now to provide facilities to small farmers. Islam is synonymous with service to God's creatures. And this is the foundation of my politics.

All the construction or welfare activities initiated during the past two and half years were also aimed at serving the creatures of God. All this work was disrupted on 18 April. But now, with your help and the blessings of God, I have been given an opportunity to restart this work. I have also vowed to work more effectively and speedily to redress the grievances of widows, orphans, oppressed people, and women who became victims of oppression, and to ensure economic rehabilitation. God willing, highways will be constructed now and the Indus Highway will also be completed. The work of the distribution of yellow cabs which was halted will not only be resumed, but more people will be given the opportunity to avail themselves of this facility.

The program to give yellow tractors to farmers will be completed. Ports and airports will be constructed. Steps will be taken to modernize agriculture. Energy sources will be expanded. And all this work will have to be done with revolutionary speed, because we have been left far behind in this era of development. If we do not proceed with revolutionary speed, then we will be unable to catch up with the world.

Having this objective in view, I do not work in the conventional way. This is why people who see the world through the eyes of regulations and files are not happy with me. But I decide the direction of my activities in accordance with the people's needs. For example, if I encounter a situation during my trips in the country where I am supposed to restore the rights of some people who have been deprived of their rights, I try to see that they get those rights then and there. If I start looking at files, then these needy people will die while waiting. These are the new requirements of the new era—that we should adopt revolutionary speed in order to rapidly move forward. I want to see the stagnation of the 1950's replaced by the speed of 1993 in all areas.

The real cause of the recent crisis was the difference between new and old concepts and perceptions, the difference between old and new thinking. But the times have vested youth with leadership responsibilities. The responsibility of Pakistan's construction and development now lies on the shoulders of the new generation. Now this younger generation will move forward with determination and hope for the future and, God willing, will decorate and adorn the future of Pakistan.

Long live Pakistan.

Bhutto Wants Elections

BK2905094693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 29 (AFP)—Pakistan's opposition Saturday [29 May] cautiously answered a call from recently restored Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to work together to solve political problems, but maintained that general elections would be the best way to settle their differences.

Opposition leader and former premier Benazir Bhutto, at a rally of her supporters in nearby Rawalpindi, said: "Our doors are not closed for dialogue but we have political grievances which have to be addressed to pave the way for any meaningful negotiations."

"Although we are not happy with the verdict we respect the law and the constitution (and) the judiciary," Bhutto said late Friday.

She claimed that the verdict had not resolved the country's political crisis, adding that only fair and impartial elections would provide a solution and that the opposition would continue its struggle for this objective.

Bhutto has maintained that the 1990 elections which brought Sharif to power were rigged.

Sharif, in a nationwide broadcast two days after his government was restored, said he would "make earnest efforts to establish cordial relations with the opposition.

"In the past these relations had not been enviable, but now there is no hurdle in establishing good relations with the opposition," he said.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reinstated Sharif's government as well as the National Assembly, striking down an April 18 dissolution order by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Sharif pledged to create a clean political climate in which there would be no "revenge, incriminations, and character assassination."

But Bhutto was still doubtful of his intentions, saying: "We have to be clear whether the government is interested in democracy or political victimisation through disqualification tribunals and special courts."

Legal proceedings against Bhutto continue at special courts for about half a dozen cases, including charges of corruption and abusing power, in the 20 months she served as prime minister.

The cases, filed by Ishaq Khan after he dismissed Bhutto's government in August 1990, were not withdrawn by Sharif who could have advised the president to do so under the Constitution.

"Democracy and politics of revenge cannot go together," Bhutto said.

The opposition rally, however, was marked by emotional slogans and speeches critical of the Supreme Court decision restoring Sharif to the premiership. Some speakers complained of "dual standards," comparing Sharif's case with the dismissal of Bhutto's own government.

"Wealth has prevailed, rather than law," said Maulana Kausar Niazi, in an implicit reference to the wealth possessed by Sharif's family, which is heavily involved in industry.

Separately, in Punjab Province, two advisors to Chief Minister Manzoor Hussain Watto resigned their posts and claimed allegiance to Sharif.

Advisors Murad Khan Gadhi and Rai Hasan Nawaz announced their resignations, as sources in the Punjab capital Lahore said Sharif's backers in the provincial government were busy mustering support from deputies.

Punjab is considered the most important province politically.

Punjab, North-West Frontier Assemblies Dissolved

Punjab Governor's Action

BK3005011293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Punjab Governor Chaudhary Altaf Hussain dissolved the provincial assembly in Lahore last night. He asked Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo to continue to discharge the duties of the chief minister under Article 133 of the Constitution. Earlier, 51 members of the provincial assembly had given a no-confidence notice [preceding word in English] against the provincial chief minister.

Dissolution in North-West Frontier Province

BK3005081893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] governor, Mr. Amir Gulistan Janjua, has dissolved the provincial assembly under Clause 1 of Article 112 of the Constitution with immediate effect. He has asked the provincial chief minister, Mir Afzal Khan, to continue to hold the office of the chief minister.

Decisions Termed Unconstitutional

BK3005160293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] At a meeting in Lahore this morning, 160 members of the dissolved Punjab Assembly termed the dissolution as unconstitutional. The meeting was presided over by Chaudhary Parvez Elahi, the leader of the opposition in the dissolved assembly. The meeting adopted a resolution which described the assembly dissolution as a step contradictory to the people's mandate and the Supreme Court decision. The resolution said that the very intention of this move is to create conditions of uncertainty in the country.

Ghulam Dastagir Khan, federal minister for local bodies and rural development, has described the dissolution of the North-West Frontier Province and Punjab assemblies as undemocratic and unconstitutional. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said that the dissolution of the provincial assemblies is an action against democratic institutions.

Leaders React

BK3105024293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has expressed anger and contempt at the dissolution of Punjab and North-West Frontier Province assemblies. He said the dissolution of provincial assemblies is tantamount to the destabilization of the democratic system which will only benefit the enemies of Pakistan.

Muslim League leader Chaudhary Parvez Elahi has claimed that the plan to dissolve the Punjab assembly was hatched soon after the dissolution of the National Assembly. Addressing newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said the provincial assembly members were misguided by those who dissolved the assembly.

Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, regrets the confrontation between the federal government and the provinces. According to PPI, she was talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday.

Jammat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the country is faced with yet another crisis due to the dissolution of the Punjab assembly. In a statement, he said a similar situation has also arisen due to the dissolution of the North-West Frontier Province

assembly. Qazi Ahmed Hussain appealed to the rulers to take steps to save the nation from a crisis.

Premier's Orders To Be Ignored

BK3105124793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 31 May 93 p 1

[Text] Lahore—The Punjab caretaker chief minister Mian Mansoor Ahmed Wattoo is told to have directed the provincial administration not to honour any directive from the prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Verbal orders have been forwarded by the special four member team to various departmental heads and secretaries. Transfers of the officers loyal to Mian Nawaz Sharif has also started taking place in the province.

First victim of the political vendetta is the executive engineer of local government and rural development (LG&RD) Lahor, Tariq Janua, who is son-in-law of Senator Raja Afzal Kahn. He was posted 10 months ago at Lahore office. It is to mention that just two days back a review meeting of the Tameer-e-Watan Programme (TWP), Tariq Janua was appreciated by DG RD [Director General of Rural Development] for his exemplary performance in the division.

Lahore TV Station Attacked

BK3105070893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 31 (AFP)—Hundreds of activists from former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's party attacked the Lahore station of Pakistan Television [PTV], smashing windows and vehicles parked in the compound, officials and newspapers said Monday [31 May].

The activists, celebrating the dissolution of the Punjab assembly by the provincial governor on Sunday, broke through a police cordon and ignoring the duty magistrate gatecrashed into the building, officials said.

Chanting slogans against the restoration of the National Assembly and the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by the Supreme Court Wednesday, the marchers, belonging to the youth wing of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), pelted the building with stones.

They threw away furniture, smashed almost all windows of the main PTV building and damaged its telephone exchange, the sources said.

Newspapers said at least 30 vehicles were damaged and that the attack hampered recordings of several programmes.

The incident was the first since the political situation deteriorated in the country after governors of the most populous Province of Punjab and North-West Frontier Province dissolved the provincial assemblies, installing anti-Sharif governments.

The action by the two presidential nominees has deepened the crisis stemming from the power struggle between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Sharif.

The move was seen as the president's counter-attack after the court overturned his sacking of Sharif in April. Sharif's ministers criticised the dissolutions as an attempt to destabilise Sharif's reformist government.

Rally Outside Punjab Court

BK0106032493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] A press note issued in Lahore last night says during yesterday's hearing in Lahore High Court on the constitutional petition against the dissolution of the Punjab assembly, rival political groups raised slogans against each other outside the court building. The situation, however, was under control until the adjournment of the court proceedings.

Later, some people staged a rally and blocked traffic on Mal Road in violation of Section 144 [banning the assembly of more than five persons]. When the group was asked to remove the roadblocks, it started throwing stones at the police, injuring a deputy superintendent of police and a constable. The law enforcement agencies were constrained to resort to a baton charge. Eighteen persons participating in the rally were injured of whom two were admitted to New Hospital and 16 discharged after receiving first aid.

Punjab Advocate General Resigns

BK0106083693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Maqbool Elahi Malik, the advocate general of Punjab, who was appearing in the Lahore High Court as public prosecutor in the case against the dissolution of the Punjab assembly, has resigned.

[Paris AFP in English at 0811 GMT on 1 June in a Lahore-datelined report adds: "The advocate general of the key Pakistani province of Punjab, Maqbool Malik, has resigned, saying he was being forced to tamper with the record of the state assembly after its weekend dissolution.

["In an immediate reaction to the move, the provincial government in a pre-dawn statement Tuesday announced that Malik's services had been terminated for 'siding with the other party.'

["'My conscience did not permit me to tamper with the official record,' Malik said in a statement made on state-run Pakistan television which embarrassed the Punjab government hostile to prime minister Nawaz Sharif. The Punjab assembly was dissolved May 29, shortly after Sharif was restored to power by a supreme court verdict last week which ruled that his April 18

dismissal by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was unconstitutional. ["The drawn-out battle between the president and Sharif, originally over the extent of the president's powers, has since the weekend focussed on control of Punjab, Sharif's home province and the country's most politically crucial. ["The advocate general, whose job is to defend the provincial government in its legal battles, was representing governor Chaudhry Altaf Hussain and Chief Minister Manzoor Watto in a petition challenging the dissolution. ["The petition against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's two key nominees has been filed before the Lahore High Court by Sharif allies Parvez Elahi and Punjab's former chief minister Ghulam Haider Wyne. ["The court has granted status quo until June 5 but Malik's withdrawal in the midst of the proceedings was seen as a setback for the opponents of Sharif in his political fight with the President. ["Malik told Pakistan television that he was being compelled to present fictitious record of the assembly showing that Watto had advised the governor on the dissolution before Elahi's men served formal notice of a no confidence motion against the chief minister. ["The petitioners have pleaded that the action was in bad faith as the country's constitution was clear that the chief minister can not request dissolution of the assembly once a motion to unseat him had been tabled."]

Prime Minister Expected To Try To Impeach President

BK3105115593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 31 May 93 pp 1,10

[Text] Islamabad—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is expected to launch two crucial moves, one is to withdraw references against opposition leaders and the other to impeach President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to strengthen his position.

It is for the first time that serious consultations on both the issues have been held in Lahore, where the Prime Minister had gone after the restoration of his cabinet by the Supreme Court.

"Yes, we have explored the ways and means to withdraw references against opposition leader Benazir Bhutto for mending fences with her so that the President remains virtually without support of any major political group in the country," said a close associate of the Prime Minister, who wanted a rapprochement between the PM and Ms Bhutto.

However, the maturity of this move to withdraw pending references against Benazir Bhutto depends on the response from the opposition leader.

On Sunday, a close aide to the Prime Minister had reportedly approached one of the Benazir's loyalists in this connection.

"Whether this move will be got through or not, it all depends on the opposition leader as the Prime Minister had twice, during last week, talked about starting negotiations with her," said a source privy to the Prime Minister.

The second move, which the Prime Minister may or may not initiate, relates to impeachment of President Ishaq. Hectic discussions are already on, particularly after the President's alleged role of provoking Chief Minister Punjab, Mansoor Ahmed Wattoo to dissolve the Punjab Assembly.

Whether the Prime Minister will return victorious in impeaching the President through the Parliament, the consequences of which includes that "the President shall cease to hold office immediately on the passing of the resolution." [sentence as published]

This is really an uphill task for Nawaz Sharif government first to frame charges on the President for violating the Constitution or gross misconduct and then to muster support of 203 members of the parliament on the basis of two-thirds majority.

On the face of it, the government of Nawaz Sharif does not have the support of required number of members to carry out impeachment motion against [words indistinct]. This means the PM needs the support of 28 more members to carry [words indistinct] either House file an impeachment motion with the Speaker under article 47(1) of the Constitution, intense struggle at the top will be on for and against the resolution [words indistinct] impeachment.

Article 47(1) says: Notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution, the President may, in accordance with the provisions of this article, be removed from office on the ground of physical or mental incapacity or impeached on a charge of violating the constitution or gross misconduct. (2) Not less than one-half of the total membership of either House may give to the speaker of the NA [National Assembly] or, as the case may be, the Chairman written notice of its intention to move a resolution for the removal of, or, as the case may be, to impeach, the President; and such notice shall set out the particulars of his incapacity or of the charge against him.

The eighth section of this article says: If, after consideration of the result of investigations, if any, a resolution is passed at the joint sitting by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of (Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) declaring that the President is unfit to hold the office due to incapacity or is guilty of violating the Constitution or of gross misconduct, the President shall cease to hold office immediately on the passing of the resolution.

Presently, Nawaz Sharif has the support of about 130 MNAs [Members of the National Assembly] and 45 senators. In all, about 72 members of the Lower House, including seven from the Jamiat-e- Eslami and six from JUI(F) [Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam], are either opposing him or abstaining on a particular matter in a House which has present total membership of 202. These 72

includes 40 (PDA) [People's Democratic Alliance], 3 (MQM) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], 6 JUI(F), 7 (JI) [Jamiat-e-Eslami], 2 JUP(N) [Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Pakistan], one each from JWP [Jamhoori Watan Party] and ASSP [expansion unknown], 2 (NPP) [National Party of Pakistan] and five from PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (Chattha) plus Khar brothers.

PM enjoys the support of about 45 senators in the Upper House. His opposition's strength is 42. These opposition members include four (PDA), seven (Functional League), two (NPP), three (MQM), two (JI), one JUI(S), eight (PATA), four (JWP) and eight others who are loyal to the President.

Bhutto, President Discuss Political Situation

BK3105123593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 31 May 93 pp 1,10

[Text] Islamabad—The Leader of the Opposition, Ms Benazir Bhutto, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Sunday [30 May] morning and spent nearly an hour in the Aiwan-e-Sadr. "It was a private meeting and we discussed the political situation," she said later.

The meeting is significant as it came in the wake of the dissolution of the Punjab and the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] assemblies. The caretaker NWFP cabinet includes four PPP [Pakistan People's Party] ministers. Dissolution of the provincial assemblies has been a long-standing demand of the People's Party.

Though the former prime minister did not say anything about the nature of her talks with the President, sources say that the dissolution of the provincial assemblies and the future strategy of the opposition on whether to remain in the National Assembly came under discussion.

The President has still not forwarded the resignations of the opposition MNAs [Members of the National Assembly] to the Speaker: The issue of offering the Sindh chief ministership to the PPP is still under discussion though, as the Presidential sources say, Muzzafar Shah is not yet willing to hand over to the PPP.

But what has been very embarrassing for the President and the PPP is the big foul-up on Sunday when instructions to convene a session of the Sindh Assembly were misunderstood as bringing a vote of no- confidence against the Chief Minister. A parliamentarian with access to the President said: "We do not know how they misunderstood. But we will soon withdraw it."

Ms Benazir Bhutto said: "We learnt of it just now but it is a local situation and we are awaiting the return of the governor from abroad." When asked to comment on the recent dissolutions of the provincial assemblies she replied, "in the NWFP it was quite obvious but it is unfortunate that in the Punjab it was a tussle between the Punjab and the centre. As a former prime minister and the leader of the opposition I condemn this and also the violence in the Punjab."

The reason why Ms Benazir is not in a hurry to announce her choice of caretaker ministers in the Punjab is because the High Court is yet to decide on the dissolution. However one of her close aides, Gen. (retd) Nasirullah said that in the past the High Court did not even admit for hearing a similar case in 1990 when Masar Wasi had filed such a petition.

Of significance is the meeting of the Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Altaf Hussain and the chief Election Commissioner with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Sunday.

Ms Benazir Bhutto spent a busy day consulting her party members about the future moves, especially on whether she should lead her members into the National Assembly session on Monday: When asked she said: "Well, Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan telephoned me and asked whether I would be attending. I, in turn, asked him whether I was still a member, to which he replied that since he had not received our resignations we retained our right to attend. So I told him that if he insisted that we spoiled our 'Id holidays, we would come."

Later, the Speaker said he hoped that the opposition would attend Monday's session. He added, "If the resignations of the opposition reach me I will proceed according to the Constitution."

But the final decision to attend or not would be arrived at after the emergency meeting of the PPP's parliamentary party on Tuesday. Same is the case with her new found ally, the Muslim League (Chattha). Hamid Nasir Chattha said: "About nine to 11 of our Leaguers in the Parliament will be getting together for a meeting on Monday where we will take a final decision. But it is likely that we will attend." He also met Ms Bhutto on Sunday.

Ms Benazir Bhutto has also been busy holding marathon sessions with her party's central executive committee members to assess the situation arising from the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly. The PPP also decided to hold a public meeting at Mochi Gate on June 6.

Political analysts say that the issue of whether to resign from the National Assembly would continue to confront the PPP. If it feels sure that the National Assembly will not be dissolved it will not want to lose its seats. But once the opposition senses that elections are around the corner, their sources claim they can muster at least 90 resignations.

Cabinet Session Reviews Political Situation

BK3105144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The federal cabinet at its special session in Islamabad today reviewed the political situation in the country emerging from the abrupt dissolution of Punjab and the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] assemblies following the restoration of the National Assembly by the Supreme Court. Addressing the Cabinet, the

prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, counseled accommodation and tolerance in the best traditions of democracy. He emphasized that the supremacy of the Constitution must prevail. He said they should not be unduly disturbed by certain engineered political developments, but should face these with tact and patience as always and strictly within the Constitution and the law. The prime minister expressed the confidence that justice would ultimately prevail and democracy would be the ultimate winner.

Directing the ministers to resume business as usual, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif reiterated his resolve to employ all available national resources to the development and rebuilding of the country to ensure that the fruit of progress reaches the masses. Referring to the revolutionary measures initiated by his government in the communications sector, the prime minister directed that special efforts should now be made to ensure that the loss of momentum suffered on account of the dissolution of the National Assembly does not affect the completion schedule of important projects.

He made a special reference to the underconstruction Indus Highway, dualization of the existing G.T. Road, and the Pakistan Motorway. The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the success of his transport scheme and directed the Ministry of Communications that all pending cases for yellow cabs be processed speedily. He also directed immediate measures for implementation of the scheme in the agricultural sector under the the title of Yellow Tractors. The scheme, he was confident, would give the much-needed boost to the agricultural sector and specially benefit the small land holders.

The prime minister also directed that the Gwadar [port] project should go ahead as planned as it is not only of great significance for Balochistan, but is also of immense economic value to the country. The prime minister directed the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to take immediate steps to achieve the target of wheat procurement to build up adequate wheat stocks. The farmers, he said, must get due price for their produce. He directed PASSCO [Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation] to take necessary measures in that direction. The prime minister also asked the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to plan ahead for the next cotton sowing season and ensure timely and adequate availability of inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizer.

National Assembly Session Convenes; Sharif Speaks

BK3105150493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The National Assembly began its session in Islamabad this afternoon to discuss the current political situation in the country. Today's sitting has been summoned by the speaker.

At the outset of the session, some of the opposition members asked the treasury benches to explain the urgency of today's sitting. The minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, informed the house that today's sitting has been called in view of the dissolution of provincial assemblies of Punjab and the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province].

In his speech, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, emphasized the need for harmonious relations between the opposition and the treasury benches. He said it is now time that confrontation should come to an end as it is not in the interest of the country and the nation. He invited the leader of the opposition for a dialogue to solve the constitutional, economic, social, and political problems facing the country.

The leader of the opposition, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, welcomed the prime minister's speech and said political issues should be tackled in a political manner. Details of the National Assembly proceedings are still coming in.

Bhutto Accepts Sharif Offer

BK3105163493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has made an open offer of direct talks with the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly and other [word indistinct] so as to resolve the political, economic, and social problems facing the country and to remove the grievances of the opposition. This was conveyed by him while initiating the debate of the National Assembly session convened to discuss the current political situation in the country this evening.

He invited the opposition leader and other members of the house to sit together and seek solutions of major problems facing the country. He said the need of the hour is that all political forces of the country strive to promote mutual understanding and cordial political environment. He said he acknowledges that the opposition has some grievances, but said they are the product of forces which also did not treat his government well.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif emphasized that antidemocratic forces should not be allowed to manipulate the differences between political (?parties), and our sole objective should be to serve the nation. He said that in view of the conspiracies being hatched by some antidemocratic forces against politicians for their vested interests, it will be better if the government and the opposition foil these conspiracies. The government and the opposition should sit together and create a conducive atmosphere and help enhance the dignity of Pakistan both inside and outside the country. He said the current situation and the dissolution of the National Assembly has badly hurt the dignity of Pakistan. He said he is happy to see opposition members present in the restored house.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said he secured the confidence vote immediately after the restoration of the assembly. But still he feels that the atmosphere of political confrontation between the government and the opposition should be abolished. They should resolve their differences through negotiations and refrain from leveling charges against each other. He said that as far as he is concerned, he is adopting this path of conciliation from [words indistinct] today, and he is sure of a positive response from the opposition. At the same time, the government will always welcome constructive criticism, the prime minister added. He said the country is currently facing a serious crisis and this crisis can be overcome only by continuous constructive consultations between the government and the opposition. He said the need of the hour is for the government and opposition to hold talks on major problems facing the country, including the constitutional amendments.

Replying to the prime minister's speech, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto welcomed his offer of negotiations and said the opposition is ready to sit together with the prime minister and hold talks on all constitutional, political, and economic issues facing the country. Members of the ruling and opposition parties thumped their desks on this occasion. She appreciated the conciliatory speech by the prime minister and said the opposition has long awaited such a show of cordiality from the prime minister.

Benazir Bhutto congratulated Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on assuming office after the restoration of the National Assembly. She said that the opposition, like the prime minister, seeks the welfare of the country, and both want to transform Pakistan as dreamt by our great leader Jinnah. She said the solution to the prevailing political crisis is to establish a national government that will hold fresh elections. The opposition is also ready to accept any other alternative solution the prime minister has in mind that will overcome this crisis, she added. She said consultative teams of the two sides can sit together and solve all the country's problems.

Apart from this, the opposition is also ready to hold talks on constitutional amendments, including the Eighth Amendment. Benazir Bhutto also demanded that the issue of appointments to the judiciary be resolved. She expressed satisfaction over the government's readiness to review court cases against the opposition. She said these cases were filed in vengeance against some opposition leaders.

In response to the opposition leader's speech, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif announced formation of a two-member committee to hold talks with the opposition on removing its grievances. He expressed confidence that the government and opposition will work together for greater cooperation between them in the greater interests of the country and the nation.

Further Details

BK3105160293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 31 May 93

[By Shah Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, May 31 (AFP)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his arch foe Benazir Bhutto Monday agreed to sit together to find a way to resolve the country's political crisis.

The agreement came during a National Assembly debate on the political situation, following the dissolution of two provincial assemblies that aggravated the 42-day old political tangle.

Initiating the debate, Sharif pledged to redress all opposition grievances of political victimisation and invited the opposition to a dialogue to work out together a solution to the deepening crisis.

Sources from both parties said aides to the two leaders had already begun consultations.

"We must sit together, forget the bitterness of the past, and open a new chapter of harmony and conciliation so as to defeat the conspiracies of undemocratic forces to achieve their selfish aims," Sharif said.

Welcoming the offer as a "positive initiative," Bhutto said the opposition was ready for talks.

She said the opposition had consistently demanded new elections after the 1990 polls which Sharif's opponents claim were massively rigged.

Bhutto said it was to achieve this goal that her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) deputies had submitted their resignations to the president a day before he dissolved the National Asssembly.

Fair and free elections were the only way to end the turmoil, said Bhutto, who had a 70-minute meeting with the president here Sunday.

"We are ready to listen if the government has any other ideas to resolve the problem," she said.

A Sharif supporter viewed the move as a dramatic turn of events that would "isolate the undemocratic forces trying to destabilize the democratic system," an apparent reference to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The president, whose April 18 order dissolving the National Assembly and Sharif's government was struck down as illegal by the Supreme Court Wednesday, has been accused of "undermining" democracy by the government.

Chief ministers appointed by the president dissolved the provincial assemblies of Punjab and North-West Frontier Province at the weekend, making it impossible for Sharif to regain the control of them which he lost during his five weeks out of power.

Bhutto continues to face corruption trials at special courts in about a half dozen cases which were filed against her by Ishaq Khan when he dismissed her government in August 1990 after 20 months in office.

Under the Constitution, Sharif could have stopped the proceedings against the opposition leader by advising the president.

A sense of relief was evident in Sharif's camp with his associates viewing the emerging rapproachment as a blow to the president.

"The country is in the grip of chaotic uncertainty and all of us in the government and opposition have to steer it through the ordeal," Sharif said in a 25-minute speech, applauded by both sides with sustained thumping of desks.

Only the "undemocratic forces" will benefit from the situation, he said, adding "it is time to learn a lesson from the past," an apparent reference to the overthrow of civilian rule in 1958, 1969 and 1977.

Though both sides have praised the army's neutral role in the present turmoil, Sharif's supporters have anticipated more drastic action from the 78-year old president.

They fear that Ishaq Khan, considered the country's star bureaucrat, planned to engineer the dissolution of the two remaining provincial assemblies to create conditions for re-dissolving the restored National Assembly.

The action in Punjab has been challenged in the Lahore High Court and sources said a petition against the dissolution of the northwestern assembly was on the way.

Committee Named for Talks

BK0106023993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The process of political dialogue between the government and the opposition has begun. The prime minister has named a three-member committee comprising Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, and Mir Hashim Khan Bizenjo, to represent the government at the talks.

Beginning the discussion on the country's political situation last night, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif with an open mind invited the opposition leader for a dialogue to resolve the country's problems and to redress the opposition's grievances. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has responded positively to this offer.

Ex-Officials Doubt Sharif's Sincerity

BK0106111093 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—Former Caretaker Prime Minister Balakh Sher Mazari and former ministrer Hamid Nasir Chattha have expressed doubts about Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's move to mend fences with the Opposition.

Both the MNAs [Members of National Assembly] while giving their reactions after the Prime Minister's speech on Monday [31 May], said that they did not believe the offer was based on sincerity.

Balakh Sher Mazari, who had earlier been named as the parliamentary leader of the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (Chattha group), said that what was the occasion now for making such an offer. He said that the Prime Ministr should have done it when he had returned to the National Assembly after the restoration of the government. "Now, when there is a political crisis in the four provinces and when the Centre is having all kinds of problems, the Prime Minister has been struck by the thought that the opposition has after all a role to play."

However, he said that if the Prime Minister's initiative is based on sincerity and if something meaningful is sought he would respond positively. But like Benazir Bhutto he also put forward the demand for early elections making it clear that there would be no compromise on it. He said several committees have been found in the past also but nothing came out so there are many a slips between the lips and cup.

Hamid Nasir Chattha said that he did not believe the Prime Minister means what he has said and that he is just buying time to get out of the present crisis. He said that he had heard several such speeches in the past and was nothing too excited about the Prime Minister's speech in the real sense.

His view was also that if the offer is based on sincerity, he would be most happy to cooperate but the question is whether the government is willing to hold fresh elections under a neutral government. To a question, he categorically said that he would oppose any move to impeach President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. While explaining, he said that there is no need to do it since the presidential election is just months away and besides why should the President be dragged into another controversy.

Deputy Leader of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] parliamentary party, Farooq Leghari said that Benazir Bhutto's response to the Prime Ministr's move was in line with the opposition's policy that fresh and fair elections be held. When asked whether the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] would be willing to join in efforts to impeach the President, he brushed aside the question by saying that there is no such plan at the moment.

Iftikhar Gilani said be was jubiliant to see the government and the opposition behaving like true democrats. "Today's proceedings were which I was longing for so long and now I have one more desire and that is to see the President go."

Mian Zahid Sarfraz was furious over the apparent shrewd move on part of the government. To a question,

he said he did not think Benazir Bhutto is so non-political to fall in Nawaz Sharif's trap. He predicted that the government would never accede to the demand of elections because it is too afraid to go to the people again. He was not even in favour of opposition forming a committee to talk to the government. "Whenever, Nawaz Sharif government was in a crisis, it resorted to make an offer to the opposition for dialogue but the intentions are false."

Spokesman Criticizes India on Killing of Nationals

BK0106024693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan has strongly rejected Indian Government allegations that Intekhab Ahmad Zia, who was killed by Indian security agencies in November last year, was an agent of Inter-Services Intelligence. In a statement issued in Islamabad yesterday, a Foreign Office spokesman has also described as wrong the Indian Government claim that another Pakistani citizen, Habibullah, who was killed by Indian security forces on the same occasion, was from Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesman referred to the recent statement by Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan on the probe of the Jain committee, which examined the causes for the killing of Intekhab Ahmad Zia and Habibullah. You may recall the allegations leveled by the Indian press on that occasion that the two Pakistani citizens were killed in encounters with the police in Indian Punjab. Describing Chavan's statement on the probe of the so-called Jain Committee as baseless and mischievous, the spokesman challenged the Indian Government to submit solid proof on these mischievous allegations. The spokesman recalled that these two Pakistanis, who were in possession of all legal documents, including visas, were kidnapped from a hotel in Delhi and were killed in cold blood.

PRC Air Chief Leaves Karachi for Hong Kong

BK2805145593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The air chief of the Chinese Air Force, Lieutenant General Cao Shuang Ming, left Karachi for Hong Kong at the end of his eight-day official visit to Pakistan. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan saw him off at the airport. During his stay in Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Shuang Ming held talks with the air chief on matters of bilateral interest.

Defense Minister Denies Plan To Cut Army's Size

BK3105135593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 31 May 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad (PPI)—Federal Minister for Defence, Syed Ghous Ali Shah has said the government never had a plan to curtail the size of army.

Talking to the PPI he said the stance of the government in this respect is very clear adding that demilitarisation is possible only after the settlement of the long standing issue of Kashmir. He said Kashmir issue is the main impediment in the way of peaceful relations between Indian and Pakistan and the delay in its resolution in posing a threat to the regional peace.

Syed Ghous Ali Shah said Pakistan cannot unilaterally take a step towards demilitarisation in the wake of regional situation. He made it clear that the government would in no way compromise on the national security.

He said the allegations that the government had decided to curtail the size of army and compromised on the nuclear issue were nothing but an attempt to malign it.

Responding to a question he said India should grant the inherent right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir, honouring commitments in this regard made by her at various international fora.

The minister termed the allegations of terrorism being levelled against Pakistan as baseless saying that Pakistan just extends moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Kashmir which can in no way be dubbed as terrorism. The Kashmir liberation movement is purely an indigenous movement, he maintained.

He said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence adding that "our efforts to make South Asia a nuclear free zone manifest our intention."